

William Penn High School

New Castle, Delaware

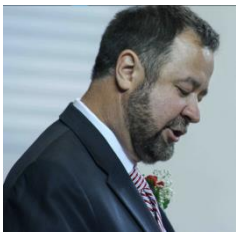
Principal's Newsletter



Volume 2018; No. 1; August 2017

It is always exciting anticipating another great year at William Penn!

As principal, I always enjoy the end of summer, as it's time of blended opportunities – enjoy some extra time with my own family (wife and two beautiful daughters) and placing the final touches for an upcoming school year. At William Penn, we take much pride in ensuring that all of our students have equal access to great opportunities, creating an experience that will continue to make them competitive for college and careers beyond high school graduation; all while, creating a place that students can walk around school grounds, proud to be part of something special – Colonial Nation. See, there's no other high school like ours. We continue to build programs and update our facilities such that our students have whatever they need to be successful, and enjoy high school life.



So allow me to give a birds-eye view of some of the new things happening at William Penn for the 2017 – 2018 school year. First, we have some new members to our admin team (their names are to the right). Where did our old admin go – well when you are on a great team, you tend to get promoted. We wish them well and welcome our new members to our leadership team. Second, our new Innovation Center is almost complete and will be ready for the new school year. It models the facilities at UDEL and is a place of cutting edge technology and a true modern collaboration space. We will also expand our online course catalogue and are working on a dual enrollment program with Wilmington University. Third, our auditorium is now updated with new sound, new lights and a new projector. This is great news for our visual & performing arts groups. We are going to revitalize our Penn Players program. These are just some of the bigger highlights. We are constantly revising curriculum and looking how we can better serve all students for academic and social success.

We are also looking forward to another great year in sports and after school activities. Our football team is expanding over state lines this year to strengthen our schedule. All of our fall coaches are back and are eager to start training camp. We have a new marching band director – Fred Higgins. He is energetic and excited to expand our already great music program. We want all of our students to get involved in activities after school. We offer a wide variety of clubs, sports and activities. We will continue to offer after school transportation on both Tuesdays and Thursdays and athletic buses will continue to run every day after school.

So, in closing, we're excited for another great school year and as always,

Go Colonials!!!!!!! – *Dr. Erskine*

William Penn High School

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www.colonialschooldistrict.org/schools/william penn

Brian M. Erskine, Ed.D.
Principal

James Zimmerman
Deputy Principal

Sebrina Perialas
Athletic Director

www.colonialssports.com

STEM College Academy
Administrators
Lisa Brewington
William Johnston

Business College Academy
Administrators
Tierney DuBard
Erik Jones

Humanities College
Academy Administrators
Jennifer Wisowaty

Colonial School District
302.323.2700

Dusty Blakey, Ed.D.
Superintendent



<https://www.facebook.com/williampennhighschool>

Principal's Newsletter

Meet some of our new staff for 2017 - 2018

We pride ourselves in the minimal turnover at William Penn. That's because we're family and we love what we do. But every year there are retirements and teachers that move out of state. But we are always excited to welcome new teachers to our family. Here are some of the new names:

Andrew Feeley – Culinary Arts
Jolie Wax – Environmental Science
Erik Hanson – English
Lorraine Land – Psychologist
Kimberly Henry – Paraeducator
Jen Wisowaty – Assistant Principal
Tierney DuBard – Assistant Principal

Nora Hutchinson – Mathematics
Logan Steiner – Engineering
Cynthia Tomeo – English
Beverly Bickelman – Paraeducator
Crystal DuPree – Paraeducator
Bill Johnston – Assistant Principal



Superstars in Education

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

William Penn High School – Penn Farm Project

Penn Farm receives Superstar Award

This past May, our Penn Farm program received a State of Delaware “Superstar” Award. This program combines agriculture, environmental science and culinary into the state’s only farm to school program. Every year, this program becomes bigger and better, to the point that we now have a full time farm manager. These students are learning every aspect of the farming and food industry, connecting with a variety of our degree programs. To keep up with their activities, check them out on their facebook page. You will be amazed with all of the things they do with students. A true “access to opportunity”.
<https://www.facebook.com/WPPennFarm/>



Important Upcoming Dates at WPHS

Monday, August 14, 2017

Marching Band Camp Begins

Tuesday, August 15, 2017

New Parent Meeting, 6pm

Wednesday, August 23, 2017

First Teacher Day

Thursday, August 24, 2017

Parent Walkthrough 5 – 7pm

Marching Band Community Preview

Monday, August 28, 2017

First Student Day – 9th Grade Only

Tuesday, August 29, 2017

First Student Day – All Grades

Friday, September 1st and Monday, September 4th

No School – Labor Day

Tuesday, September 5, 2017

Manufacturing Program Begins

Principal's Newsletter

Overview of William Penn High School's Degree Programs

STEM College Academy

Agriculture
Allied Health
Architecture
Computer Science
Construction
Engineering
Mathematics
Manufacturing
Science

Business College Academy

Air Force Jr. ROTC
Business Administration
Culinary Arts
Financial Services
Marketing

Humanities College Academy

Behavioral Sciences
Communications
Education
International Studies
Legal Studies
Visual & Performing Arts



Degree Program Highlight Culinary Arts (Business College Academy)

Our culinary arts program continues to be the best in the state. For the second year in the row, William Penn was the state champions in both culinary and business management. Both teams when to the national competition (every state participates). They placed in the top 12 – very impressive. We have added a new chef to our team. He has been an executive chef for a long time in the state, but always found time to work with our students – Chef Andrew Feeley. His resume is impressive, but now, wants to shift gears and work with our students. That's good news for our program. They will continue to make our students truly ready for college & careers.



Does your child know their Schoolology and Google Apps login?

Many of our teachers embrace a digital curriculum and blended learning. Many use Google Apps and Schoolology as their platforms. All William Penn High School students have access to these items.

Login: Six Digit Student ID

Password: 8 digit birthdate

Encourage your child to log in today and show you what they're doing.



Parents – To keep updated on your child's progress, make sure you log into HAC – Home Access Center. Contact your child's school counselor if you don't know your username or password.

<https://hac.doe.k12.de.us>

It's also extremely important that we have your current mailing address, phone number and parent email. Please check HAC to ensure we have the correct info. If we don't simply call the school and we'll update your summary information.

At William Penn – Access to High Quality Academics is Always the Priority

New courses added to our (already large) course catalog: (contact your school counselor to add these to your schedule)

American Music History VP451150H; Spring Semester; Teacher - Mr. Erickson

American Music History explores trends in popular music from the 1920's to the present. Students will gain a familiarity with the various genres of music that have served as the soundtrack to the United States. Genres of music include but are not limited to folk, gospel, jazz, blues, big band, country, rock n roll, heavy metal and hip-hop. The course will also observe the cultural and political influences that have shaped American popular music.

African American Studies SS251150H; Fall Semester; Teacher - Mr. Vazzana

African American Studies explores a variety of topics such as the cultural, political, economic, and religious impact on African American history through a variety of mediums: literature and novels, films, documents, music, etc. It will examine the struggles and accomplishments of black Americans through the 21st century.

History of Sports SS261150H; Spring Semester; Teacher - Mr. Vazzana

This course will explore the significance of sport in American history. Through novels, films, and documents, students will examine the links among sports, politics, culture, US relations, all while studying the origin of athletics and the way that popular sports have changed over time. During the course, students will cover controversy in sports, civil rights, sports tragedies, sport analytics, finances, college recruitment and many of sports related topics.

What are the “advisory” classes (periods 9 & 10)?

At William Penn, we want to ensure all-around success for each student; and sometimes, that means providing a little “extra” in academics, social and emotional support – and that’s where periods 9 & 10 come to play. Offered in four-day chunks throughout the school year, these extra classes offer a variety of items. For example, grade 9 will focus on the necessary skills to be successful in high school and start preparing for life beyond high school graduation. Grade 10 will focus on PSAT prep using Khan Academy. Grade 11 will be SAT prep (all Juniors take the SAT in April 2018). And grade 12 will focus on college & career readiness – FAFSA, scholarships, college applications, job resumes, writing center, job applications, and much, much more (high school graduation will be here sooner than you think!)

To new parents, “when does my child receive their schedule and how can I come see the building?”

Students will receive their schedule on the first day of school. (Grade 9 – August 28th and Grades 10 – 12 on August 29th). We do our best to individualize everyone’s schedule to meet their needs and interests. Course request papers were sent home during the summer for parent review. During the first week of school, if a student has a “hole” in their schedule, they report to the auditorium and counselors will adjust their schedule. If a student wishes to change a class, they must request an appointment with a counselor. This has to be done during the very beginning of the school year, as we do not honor requests after the first month of school. Our parent walkthrough is August 24th between 5 – 7pm. Remember, this is just a time to walk through the building. You will not meet teachers this night. Open House is September 14th at 6pm. We will also have a “new parent” meeting on Tuesday, August 15th at 6pm. This is a time to meet the principal and Q & A.

Where can I get information throughout the school year?

We have a variety of ways that we share information with parents and students. We update our Facebook pages on a daily basis with school information, photos, and press. Please “join” our page and follow along. Although more static, we will update our school website throughout the school year as well. The principal will make phone calls home frequently, sharing important information as necessary. It’s critical that our Eschool information is up to date and accurate. We need your contact info and mailing address (this is also important for safety reasons). We also want parents to access HAC to review your child’s grades & attendance. For students, they should log into Schoology to receive announcements and access to their course information. We will have a Schoology Parent Night in the fall. Below are website addresses:

WP Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/williampennhighschool>

WP Website: <http://www.colonialschooldistrict.org/schools/williampenn/>

Schoology: <https://colonial.schoology.com/>