

Sussex Charter News

Building Future Leaders in the STEM Community

Noreen Lazariuk, Executive Director

Deirdre Mastandrea, Principal

Leadership Corner

Welcome to the start of the 2016-2017 School Year! Every summer I share in the excitement and anticipation the new school year brings. We have many improvements to our curriculum, instruction and extra-curricular activities that we are eager to share with our students and parents. Many of the new initiatives are highlighted in this newsletter. One of the most prominent changes is the leasing of the property on Rt. 94 at the entrance of the school. This annex will provide additional classroom space enabling us to lower our class size in Math, Reading, & Writing. Another change will be one lunch period. This will make all teachers available to students during our Enrichment period and allow for clubs to meet during the school day. We have also transferred to a new student information system called Realtime. Our teachers and administrators, as well as our support staff, are dedicated to delivering effective instruction in an optimal learning environment. We adopt a dictum of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience in approaching all the challenges that the rapid emotional growth of middle school brings.



I prioritize being accessible to all students and parents. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any reason. I can be reached by email, office phone or cell phone. You are also welcome to drop in as I keep an open door policy.

Noreen Lazariuk, Executive Director

Principal's Note

It has been my pleasure to put together Sussex Charter's first newsletter! It was a wonderful opportunity to review what our school has been up to and where we are heading. I couldn't be more proud or excited about the future of Sussex Charter.



This newsletter will be going out monthly and we want it to be a collaboration of the many hands of our school (Administration, Teachers, Parents and Students). If there is anything you would like included, please reach out to me and let me know. Have a safe and fun last few weeks of summer!

Deirdre Mastandrea, Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS

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|------|---|
| 8/24 | 6 th Grade Picnic 10AM-1PM |
| 8/24 | Student schedules available on Realtime |
| 8/25 | 7 th & 8 th Grade Open House 10 AM-Noon |
| 8/25 | PTO Meeting 6 PM |
| 9/6 | First Day of School |
| 9/12 | Board of Trustees Meeting 7 PM |
| 9/14 | Back to School Night (A-L) 6:30 PM-8:30 PM |
| 9/15 | Back to School Night (M-Z) 6:30-8:30 |

STEM EVERY DAY

There has been much talk recently about the importance of a quality STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education for US students. At Sussex County Charter School for Technology our mission is to infuse technology into learning. While this was happening through scheduled, 3 week technology rotations, we believe that a full time, comprehensive and quality STEM program, is necessary to creating leaders in the future job market.

For several decades the US has been losing its dominance in STEM fields. We, as educators, need to make sure that our schools are properly training our youth to deal with real-world problems and that they have the skills to discover and implement solutions to these problems. Middle School is often the time of a child's life that they begin to think about possible career paths they want to follow. Therefore, the proper introduction of STEM for this age group is imperative to encourage more students to choose a STEM career path.

Sussex Charter's new STEM program will give students the skills to ask the right questions and know how to effectively answer them. By using inquiry-based learning approaches to teach STEM content, students will be encouraged to think carefully about the subjects they are studying, not just for the purpose of learning the content, but more importantly for a deeper understanding of the world around them. In addition, these skills will arguably be important for academic and life success, regardless of the career path chosen.

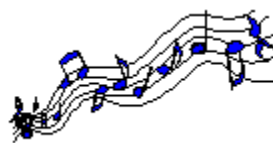
At Sussex Charter, our STEM classes will now be a 40 minutes period, five days a week, for all students. The program is being led by Dr. Michael Schwartz. The STEM Team includes Mrs. Mary Lou DeCaprio, Mr. Jesse Lerch, Mrs. Jamie Zangara-Fritts. Mrs. Francesca Cruciata and Mrs. Carolyn Sior. Each of these team members brings with them a wealth of knowledge in their field of expertise. Our school is lucky to have such an amazing staff working to expand our technology programs to include all aspects of STEM.

New Art Opportunities

Beginning in September, SCCST will run on an A, B, C day schedule so that we can incorporate traditional art and music classes into our curriculum. Students will still be exposed to the technological aspects of these subjects, but will also have the opportunity to use more hands on approaches such as



painting, sculpting and piano.



Students' schedules will rotate each day between Art, Music

and Spanish. Many Sussex Charter artists have been missing this so we are excited to offer this immersive fine arts experience to them.

PTO NEWS



The 2016-2017 SCCST PTO would like to extend a warm welcome to our new and returning families. The purpose of the PTO is to promote and support the education and enrichment of the SCCST students, and to strengthen the relationship between home and school, through volunteer opportunities, fundraising, community building and providing student enrichments. All parents, guardians, faculty and staff are valued members of the PTO. The PTO has numerous opportunities for you to participate, offering your talents in the way in which you are most comfortable, from either home or school. Being part of the PTO is a rewarding way to become involved in your child's education and school community. Please email the PTO at sussexcharterpto@hotmail.com to become an official member and to help identify where you would like to participate.

BOARD UPDATES



Dr. Edwin Selby, Board President

The Board of Trustees meets the second Monday of every month. On even months we meet at 4 PM, on odd months we meet at 7 PM. We invite parents, teachers, students and staff to attend our meetings and to learn more about how our school operates and different ways to become part of our school community.

Board Members

Dr. Edwin Selby, President
eselby@sussexcharter.org

Mr. Jason Apter, Curriculum & Policy, Personnel & Negotiations
japter@sussexcharter.org

Mrs. Wendie Blanchard, Personnel & Negotiations
wblanchard@sussexcharter.org

Mr. Michael Nelms, Finance
mnelms@sussexcharter.org

Dr. Mary Rapuano, Curriculum & Policy, Finance
mrapuano@sussexcharter.org

Mrs. Michelle Syre, Building & Grounds, Public Relations
msyre@sussexcharter.org

Extra Help & Clubs Available to ALL Students

Through the course of last year, we noticed that the majority of our students were unable to stay after school for various reasons, including extra-curricular activities, family responsibilities and even just plain exhaustion after working hard all day. Academically, this was concerning because it meant that every student did not have access to the extra help from teachers that was offered at that time. Socially and emotionally, it was concerning because it also meant that all SCCST students could not participate in clubs, something the SCCST administration believes is so important to our students becoming well-rounded individuals.

In order to address these concerns, after-school days will be replaced by an enrichment and club time during the school day. All teachers will be available five days a week during enrichment to provide extra tutoring, test preparation or conferencing. Clubs will occur during the lunch/enrichment period on a rotating schedule so that students can participate in more than one club if they so choose.

We are very excited about this new approach to extra help and clubs, and hope that it will result in academic support they need, as well as being able to explore their interests further.

Sports at Sussex Charter



Boys and Girls Soccer

Mr. Fialcowitz

nfialcowitz@sussexcharter.org

Boys and Girls Cross Country

Mr. Redmond

iredmond@sussexcharter.org



7th & 8th Grade Open House

August 25th

Drop in any time between 10 –Noon

[Pick up a copy of your schedule](#)

[Check out your locker](#)

[Walk around the school](#)



6th Grade Orientation Picnic

Get Your Schedule

Find Your Locker

Meet New Friends

Play Games

Tour the School

Food & Drink Provided

August 24th 10 AM - 1 PM

2016-2017 CLUBS

Drama Club – Mrs. Scheffler

Literary Magazine – Mrs. Myslinski

Peace Pals – Mrs. Sevean

Project Altitude – Mrs. Sevean

Robotics Club – Mr. Schwartz

Science Club – Mr. Fritts

Ski Club – Ms. Graziano

Society of Women Engineers – Mrs. DeCaprio

Student Council – Ms. Reader

Yearbook – Mr. Lerch



Robotics Lego Competition!

See Mr. Schwartz for more information

mschwartz@sussexcharter.org

Boys & Girls Basketball this Winter!

See Mr. Fialcowitz or Mr. Redmond for information

nfialcowitz@sussexcharter.org

iredmond@sussexcharter.org