

Sussex County Charter School for Technology

CHARTER NEWS

Building Future Leaders in the STEM Community



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! 2017 is now solidly upon us. The parties are over, the decorations have been put away, and the resolutions have more than likely been forgotten. In lieu of a resolution, I'd like to ask you each to help your Sussex Charter student create a lifestyle change that will help them throughout adulthood: completing homework. As much as we might wish this, most middle schoolers are not intrinsically motivated. They would much rather do something they find fun or interesting than sit down and get schoolwork done. In middle school, instant gratification is the name of the game. They want things to be fun now. They can't even picture themselves next week, let alone at the end of the school year when summer school is looming. At school, we spend a great deal of time trying to help our students get organized and help from home always makes the biggest difference. If you need help getting on Realtime or Google Classroom to keep track of your child's daily progress, please reach out to me.

-Deirdre Mastandrea

**MARKING
PERIOD
ENDS
JANUARY**

26th

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees meets the second Monday of every month. On even months we meet at 4pm, on odd months we meet at 7pm. 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.

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Synchronized Skating

Synchronized skating is a rare sport. We are 2 out of about 34 kids in Sussex County that do Synchronized Skating. Synchronized Skating (Synchro) is a team sport. We are part of the New Jersey Black Diamonds. We skate at Skyland's Ice World in Stockholm, NJ. Synchronized skating is a team of 8-20 skaters. Synchronized Skating means completing the required elements, and doing them at the same time. Our team the New Jersey Black Diamonds is split into 3 levels. Synchronized Skating has 14 levels. You start at beginner and work your way up. Our 3 teams are beginner, preliminary, and the highest level at our rink is Pre-Juvenile. We are on Pre-Juvenile. Synchronized skating has many elements including: The line, pinwheel, circle, traveling circle, slice, creative element, and the block. Synchronized Skating is a competitive sport. You can earn gold, silver, bronze, and pewter.

Believe it or not synchronized skating is not an Olympic sport! We hope it will in 2022.

We started skating in Kindergarten at the age of 5. In 3rd grade the skating director of Skyland's asked us to join Black Diamonds. We were thrilled! Our team started as beginner, we won many silvers and bronzes. No gold!

Our second year, we skated at the Beginner 1 level. Hannah was chosen to be team captain. About 2 weeks later, the skating director asked Hannah to join the highest level team, Beginner 2. Heidi was made team captain of the Beginner 1 team. We skated at the same competitions just different times, levels, makeup, and costumes. We skated at Hershey, West Orange, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. At Hershey, Hannah's Beginner 2 team ended up getting the first gold in Black Diamond history! The coaches were so proud! Heidi's Beginner 1 team earned bronze and pewter.

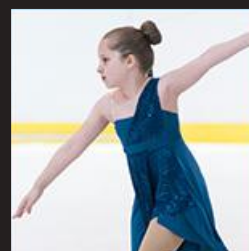
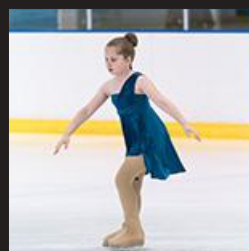
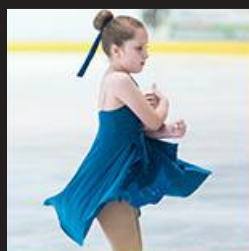
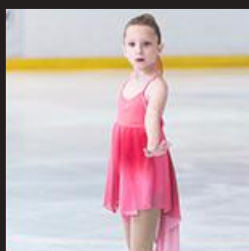
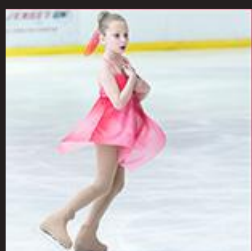
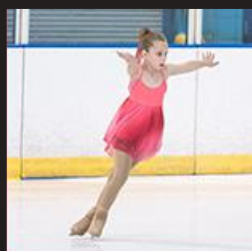


In the third year, Heidi was moved up to Hannah's team which was now skating higher at the Preliminary level. We got an international choreographer to put together our program. We were going to Easterns!

Easterns are skating against all the Synchronized teams on the East Coast, at our level. It was in Virginia. We ended up placing 9th. We tried our best!

This year is our fourth year. We are now at Pre-Juvenile level. We are skating to Thriller by Michael Jackson. So far we skated at West Orange, and Connecticut, both times we got 2nd place. The first competition in West Orange Heidi couldn't skate because she broke her toe, but by the 2nd competition it was healed and she was able to skate! We are skating at Easterns again. This time they are in Hershey Park, PA and we are skating against 27 teams. We hope we will do better this year! If our team earns gold, silver, bronze, or pewter we will advance to Nationals! At Nationals, we would skate against the top 4 teams at our level from the Mid-Western, and the Pacific-Coast, which would be fantastic!

- Hannah and Heidi Gallagher



SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

A CHANGE IN FOCUS Student Centered Approach Infusing Authentic Learning Opportunities

The Math Department has been working toward implementing our Common Core Standard based curriculum using student centered learning while providing authentic learning opportunities. To this end, we have spent professional development time with David Ginsburg. David Ginsburg has served over 20 years as a math teacher, instructional leader, and PD provider. He leads a Philadelphia-based team of consultants that specializes in instructional coaching, leadership coaching, and common-core implementation.

The use of "Grappling Problems" is one activity the department has implemented immediately. These activities cause the students to struggle, however, they develop their resilience to work together and find a way to solve a problem. Students are showing growth in their ability to collaborate, listen to other's ideas, and use their resources.

Another challenge we have put into action is working together with our STEM Department to infuse Mathematics into our STEM projects and curriculum - continuing to connect math to real-life skills and their application.

As a department, we continue to take every opportunity offered to help our students succeed!



UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 27th

8th Grade Graduation Pictures

FEBRUARY 13th

Board of Trustees Meeting (4 PM)

FEBRUARY 16th

PTO Meeting (6 PM)

FEBRUARY 20th & 21st

Winter Recess/President's Day
(School Closed)

FEBRUARY 22nd

School Resumes



PTO NOTES

Have you used up all your wonderful holiday Yankee Candles? Fear not as we will be holding another Yankee Candle Fundraiser along with some other favorites you may have missed the first time around. Plus...Magarino Ford will be holding a Drive 4 UR school fundraiser later this school year.



We are excited to announce that the PTO will also be hosting another Spring School Dance and clothing drive. Come join us at our next PTO meeting to discuss all these wonderful events and how your talents can help. Please remember to check our Sussex Charter PTO facebook page for the latest news, upcoming events, fundraisers, reminders and meeting dates.

- SCCST PTO