



Appoquinimink School District

THE WORLD IS OUR CAMPUS

Tony J. Marchio Administration Building | apposchooldistrict.com
313 South Fifth Street, PO Box 4010, Odessa, DE 19730-4010 | 302.376.4128

Superintendent's February 12 Update

ASD's 2021-22 Calendar is here!

A public comment period ended on February 3, 2021. On Tuesday night, after a final review and discussion, the School Board voted to approve the 2021-22 calendar. We will be posting a printer-friendly, one-page version on school and district websites later this month. For now, we're pleased to share this month-at-a-glance version of the [CALENDAR](#).



Reminder: Grade 8 High School Preview Night is Thursday

Preview Night offers an opportunity to meet our high school leaders, discuss the course catalog and registration process, and explore pathways that nurture career-based skills and experiences. Parents are encouraged to participate in the program with your student!

Overview. The event will begin at 6:00 pm on [ASD's YouTube](#) channel. After a welcome and orientation, families will be asked to select two different pathways to explore. Using Zoom links provided by our high schools, you'll watch a short video then meet with a teacher and students who'll answer your questions. More than 20 pathway sessions will be available to watch on our YouTube Channel after the event.

Course Guide. Schools will distribute hard copies of the 2021-2022 Course Catalog & Pathway Guide next week, but you don't have to wait! To view an online copy now, [click here](#). Our thanks to MHS Digital Communications Teacher Darrell "Chip" Sams and students Jenna Donovan, Alexis Bennett and Evan Apps for their work designing this year's catalog.

Calling all Eighth Grade Families
High School Preview Night
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18 | 6:00 p.m.

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APPOQUINIMINK HIGH 1080 Bunker Hill Road, Middletown
MIDDLETOWN HIGH 120 Silver Lake Road, Middletown
ODESSA HIGH 670 Tony Marchio Drive, Townsend

Principal Samuel Postlethwait | appo.k12.de.us | www.appohigh.org
Principal Matthew Donovan | appo.k12.de.us | www.middletownhs.org
Principal Veronica Perrino | appo.k12.de.us | www.odessahs.org

State Testing

This spring, grade 3-12 students will participate in an annual statewide assessment process designed to support student growth and mastery. Known as the DeSSA (or the Delaware System of Student Assessment), it encompasses four key content areas: English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. In addition, Appoquinimink is proud to provide students in grades 9 and 10 with an opportunity to take the College Board's Spring PSAT.

These tests must be taken in-person and are not available for remote administration.

A special schedule will be designed to accommodate hybrid and fully remote students during the designated testing window. All COVID-19 safety precautions will be taken into consideration to provide a safe and appropriate testing environment for learners. Your student's building will provide more detailed communication in the coming weeks.

Information about the Delaware System of Student Assessment can be found [HERE](#).

Matt Burrows, Ed.D.
Superintendent

BOARD

Norman Abrams
Charlisa Edelin, Esq.
Richard Forsten, Esq.
Michelle Wall
Kelly Wright

ADMINISTRATION

Tony J. Marchio Building
Marion E. Proffitt Training Center

PRESCHOOL

Age 3-4
Appoquinimink Preschool Center

ELEMENTARY

Early Childhood Centers /
Kindergarten

Cedar Lane ECC
Spring Meadow ECC
Townsend ECC

Grade 1-5 Schools

Brick Mill Elementary
Bunker Hill Elementary
Cedar Lane Elementary
Lorewood Grove Elementary
Old State Elementary
Olive B. Loss Elementary
Silver Lake Elementary
Townsend Elementary

SECONDARY

Grade 6-8 Schools
Alfred G. Waters Middle
Everett Meredith Middle
Louis L. Redding Middle

Grade 9-12 Schools

Appoquinimink High
Middletown High
Odessa High

ADULT CONTINUING EDUCATION

James H. Groves High



Delaware
Department of Education

Construction Update

- Three construction projects are underway: Brick Mill Early Childhood Center (opening fall 2021), Silver Lake Elementary (completion fall 2021), and Everett Meredith Middle (completion fall 2022).
- Two separate bid days: 1) Turf field replacements at AHS and MHS, and 2) Roof and HVAC replacement at MHS will take place later this month.

Brick Mill Early Childhood Center

- Our new school will feature 8 traditional KG classrooms, 2 Spanish immersion KG classrooms, and 10 PK classrooms (a mix of half-day 3's and full-day 4's).
- Pavement has been completed: bus loop, back parking lot, student drop-off loop (front of school), front parking lot.
- Windows and masonry are completed.
- Drywall and interior painting are underway.



Silver Lake Elementary

- The new front entrance is underway. It will include a drop-off loop for car riders.
- The roof has been installed on the classroom wing addition.
- Pipes and electric are being connected in the mechanical room.
- Ductwork is underway.
- Work continues on the outdoor learning space that will be a feature of the new courtyard.



Everett Meredith Middle

- Next month, the foundation and pad will be poured for the front of the building, and steel will be erected.
- Work on the masonry foundation and piers at the back of the building is underway.
- The stairwell tower is under construction.
- Underground plumbing installation has begun.
- When completed, the new building will be closer to Broad Street than the original structure. This will create more room for instructional space.



To hear the full presentation and see more photographs from the work in progress, go to the February 9, School Board Meeting on our [YouTube Channel](#). The report begins at time stamp 1:02.

It's time to register for kindergarten

<http://bit.ly/ASD-Register>

In Delaware, children who turn 5-years old by August 31, are eligible to enter kindergarten in fall 2021. Because ASD is Delaware's fastest-growing school system, it's important to stay on top of the numbers so we know how many new families will be joining us. Time is needed to recruit more high-quality staff (if needed) and negotiate for more buses and drivers. Please help us by encouraging families with young children to begin the online registration process now!

About our program. In Appoquinimink, lively 5-year olds explore and discover in a building dedicated to early childhood education before graduating to an elementary "feeder school" for grades 1-5. This gives our students the chance to learn from their teachers (academic essentials) and from their interactions with other children (play-based skills). A total of four Early Childhood Centers (ECC's) are located throughout the district. Each building shares the same curriculum, training, and instructional focus on the whole child. Attendance is based on your neighborhood feeder pattern.



- **Brick Mill ECC**, 360 Brick Mill Road, Middletown / Opening Fall 2021
Principal Tracy.Calhoun@appo.k12.de.us
- **Cedar Lane ECC**, 1221 Cedar Lane Road, Middletown
Principal Susan.Jackson@appo.k12.de.us
- **Spring Meadow ECC**, 611 Campus Drive, Townsend
Principal Gayle.Rutter@appo.k12.de.us
- **Townsend ECC**, 10 Brook Ramble Lane, Townsend
Principal Carolyn.Joynt@appo.k12.de.us

Families have the option of enrolling in a traditional kindergarten program or challenging their 5-year old in an immersion language setting where they experience math, science, language arts and social studies taught in two languages instead of one. Options for the 2021 school year include Spanish and Mandarin Chinese. Important: Immersion is a 'school choice' program and requires a special registration process. Space is limited and slots fill quickly for these programs.

- [Find your kindergarten feeder pattern](#)
- [Online registration explained](#)
- [Learn about Kindergarten Immersion](#)



Appoquinimink Foundation

The Appo Foundation is a non-profit organization founded in 2010 by parents, alumni and community members to provide independent support to the Appoquinimink School District through scholarships, teacher or school/program mini-grants, and fundraising events. Vice Chairman Amar Tailor, an ASD parent and local businessperson (Mathnasium), shared an update about recent activities at the February 9 School Board Meeting.

Tailor reminded our virtual audience that the Foundation will be issuing a \$2,500 college scholarship to a deserving Senior at each high school and encouraged interested students to visit their [website](#) to complete the online application process.

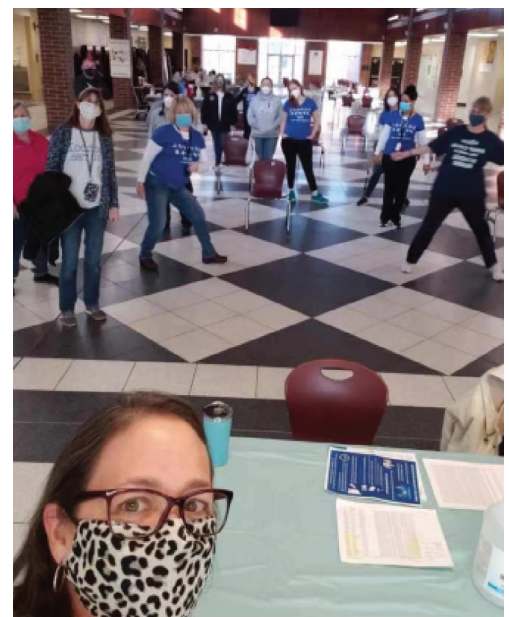
Other recent support has included underwriting for STEM Fair activities, Leader In Me (select schools), and books for ASD preschoolers. Volunteer opportunities with the foundation include the Farm to Fork Dinner (celebrating locally sourced food), a 5K, opportunities to participate on the board, and a May 21, 2021 Golf Tournament at Back Creek Golf Course. A flier for the event will be out later this month.

Contact information for the Foundation:

- Website: <https://appofoundation.org>
- Instagram, Twitter: @appo_foundation
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Appo-Foundation-412361382144892>
- Email: fas@appo.k12.de.us

Educators and school staff members receive vaccine

Last Saturday, Appoquinimink High was the site of a statewide vaccination event for educators and school staff members categorized as Phase 1B (65 and older and those with underlying health conditions) and Phase 1A (school nurses). The event, co-sponsored by the Delaware Department of Education and Albertson's Pharmacy (parent company of Acme & Safeway) was by invitation only. A total of 480 individuals received their first dose of the vaccine. Director of Safety, Security & Operations Tom Poehlmann, and many of our school nurses volunteered their time to assist at the event which was also supported by the Delaware School Nurses Association.



ASD's COVID-19 case rate

As of February 11, 2021

Active Cases

<1% of Hybrid students (24/6,483)

<1% of Staff providing Hybrid instruction (6/1,496)

Quarantined

<1% of Hybrid students (56/6,483)

<1% of Staff providing hybrid instruction (11/1,496)

Feb. 18: School Based Health Centers explore trauma's impact on our children

Christiana Care's School Based Health Centers have teamed with experts from the Department of Behavioral Health to create free, monthly seminars designed to support parents and caregivers. This month's Zoom session will explore trauma, trauma-related disorders, and the impact on our children. For a flier with registration information, [click here](#).



MHS Grad Aaron Stansell has been nominated for "Best Chef, Upstate Delaware"

Aaron is a proud product of Middletown High School's Culinary Arts & Hospitality Program. After graduation, he continued to develop his craft at Firebirds Wood Fired Grill, Ernest and Scott Taproom, and Two Stones Pub in Newark. Now he's back in Middletown as the **Executive Chef of The Grille at Back Creek** where his leadership, dedication, and culinary creativity resulted in a 2021 nomination in Delaware Today Magazine's "Best of Delaware - Best Chef, Upstate Delaware" competition. Help us get our homegrown talent, Chef Aaron Stansell, some well-deserved recognition. Cast a vote for him online before 8am on February 15.

- [2021 Best of Delaware Ballot](#)

That concludes this week's newsletter. Yours in learning and with gratitude,

Matt Burrows

Superintendent

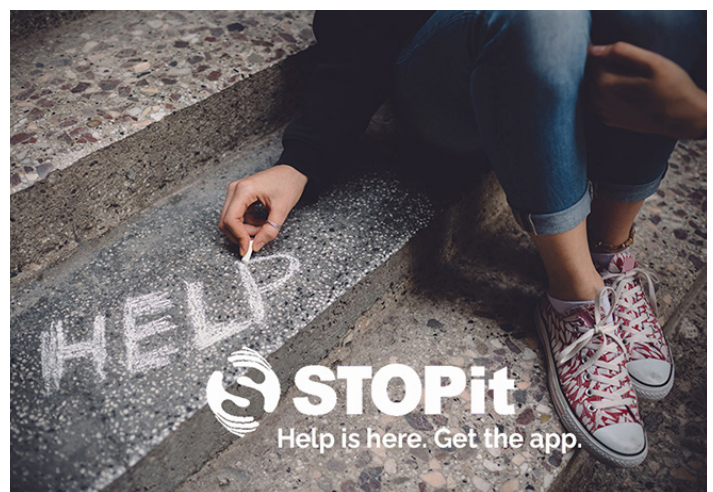


REMINDERS:

Protect your child. Download the STOPit app. COVID exacerbates vulnerabilities for our children. This free app lets students, parents and guardians share their concerns — from cyber-bullying to depression, threats of self-harm and even suicide — with a message launched 24/7 from their phone, tablet or workstation. Concerns are relayed in seconds so appropriate help can be on the way. ASD families can download the free STOPit app at the [Apple](#) or the [Google Play](#) app store.

Health resources for families.

- **Mobile Response & Stabilization Services:** 1-800-969-HELP (4357). A free, 24/7 service for hotline support, mobile outreach and walk-in crisis services
- **Crisis Text Line:** Text DE to 741741. A free, 24/7 text line for students in crisis
- [School Counselors](#) / [School Psychologists](#) / [Educational Diagnosticians](#) / [Nurses](#)
- More Emotional and Self Care Resources on our [website](#).



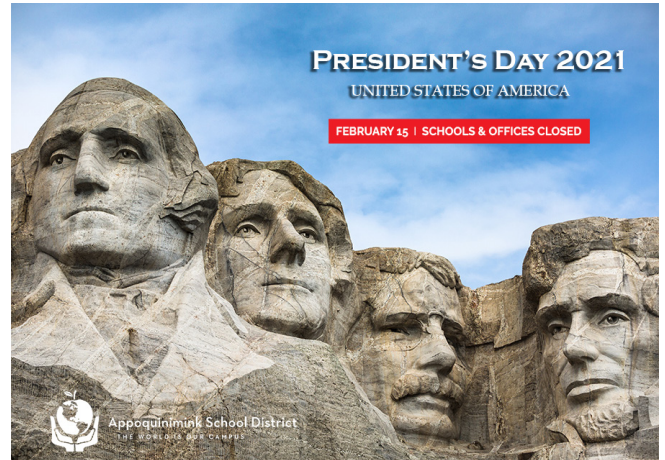
Free COVID Testing. Drive-thru testing events for COVID-19 are happening from 10:00 am-3:00 pm on Wednesdays in the parking lot of Middletown High School. All ages are welcome. Appointments are suggested, not required, to save time in line. You can register 48 hours in advance at <https://curative.com/>.


Snow Days. If a snow day is needed, automated calls will be launched, typically in the 6:00- 6:30 am window. They will trigger a half-day morning session. Your child's school will communicate the schedule that will be in effect when a snow day is called.

School Board Meeting Recap. If you missed Tuesday's School Board Meeting, you can watch a copy of the session on our [YouTube Channel](#). Our next School Board Meeting will be March 9.


Don't forget: President's Day is Monday. Schools and offices will be closed for the federal holiday. Here are some favorite activities for grades K-5 from the website We Are Teachers, <https://www.weareteachers.com/presidents-day-activities/>.

Congratulations Chris! After a big Super Bowl win last week, MHS alumni Chris Godwin and his fiancée MHS alumni Mariah Delpercio were featured in a post on Sports Center's official Instagram account. Like you, we're incredibly proud of these two ambassadors for our School and State!



 sportscenter From high school to the Super Bowl, Chris Godwin and his fiancée have been on the entire journey together 🥰❤️ (via @nffilms, @_misstwelve, @chrisgodwin, @thecheckdown)

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