DETERMINED & DRIVEN IN ALL THAT WE DO
Dear North Penn,

I am pleased to share our 2020-2021 North Penn School District Annual Report. In the pages that follow, you will read about our excellent school district, including a sampling of the many student and staff achievements over the past year. The school year was one like no other in that it varied from virtual, to hybrid to in-person instruction as we continued to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. And we did this successfully thanks to the staff, students, families and community members involved.

You will also find information in this report about district demographics, programs and services, how we are using financial resources, and updates on building improvements, security measures, communications, hiring and much, much more.

The theme of this year’s annual report is DETERMINATION, which is the underlying factor of all that we have accomplished. Without staff, student and community determination, none of our collective successes would have been possible. When I think of what the word determination means to me I think of persevering toward a difficult goal in spite of obstacles along the way. I can think of many examples of this during the past year, from bringing all of our students back to in-person instruction, to learning new technology, to managing the difficult emotions we have all experienced.

Tied closely with determination and perseverance is the idea of resilience, which is equally important. Although there were many challenges last year, it never caused us to abandon our goal of providing the best possible education to all of our students and returning as many students as possible to in-person instruction.

I am proud of all that we have achieved in light of all of the challenges we faced. In fact, there are many more NPSD success stories than we can summarize in this annual report. You are encouraged to use the engagement methods highlighted in this report, including social media, newsletters and in-person meetings, to stay informed and celebrate our ongoing successes.

I look forward to another great year as your superintendent.

Sincerely,

Curtis R. Dietrich, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Community Conversations with the Superintendent

Dr. Dietrich values community engagement and regularly schedules informal meetings to hear concerns, answer questions and celebrate our successes. You are invited to participate and can RSVP and view upcoming dates by visiting www.npenn.org/communityconversations.

Vision

The North Penn School District seeks to develop students who embody its universal values of achievement, kindness, collaboration, respect, responsibility, resilience, and integrity. Through an education that develops students both academically and emotionally, equitable opportunities, and a respect for human differences, members of the North Penn community will contribute meaningfully to their local and global communities.

Mission

The North Penn School District is an effective, innovative, student-centered community of teaching and learning where every student is empowered to:

- become an independent, resilient, life-long learner who uses knowledge to create new understandings;
- achieve at one’s highest potential;
- live as a positive, responsible, and contributing citizen of the global society; and
- develop a respect for diversity and appreciation of human differences.

Shared Values

- Visionary Leadership
- High Expectations for Learning
- People-Centered Community
- Continuous Improvement
- Partnerships and Teamwork
- Strength in Diversity

Please note that the photographs used within this annual report were taken at different times when restrictions may have varied. Health and safety protocols were followed throughout the school year.
Dear North Penn,

The COVID-19 crisis and our implementation of online learning, then hybrid and finally in-person instruction for all students who chose, dominated much of the discussions and actions of the 2020-2021 school year. Though we and every community in the United States faced challenges, NPSD students continued their high levels of learning, and of this we can all be proud.

It is extremely important to recognize that, despite a pandemic, there have been many other noteworthy achievements during the past year due to determined staff, students, families and community members. And for this I am grateful.

Ensuring school board policies and regulations are up to date and relevant are extremely important to the work of a school board. To that end, last year NPSD continued to review and revise board policies, some of which are decades old. I am extremely proud of the Equity Policy (policy 832) which the school board passed in January and prioritizes the principle of educational equity through the fair and just allocation of resources, opportunities and treatment based upon each individual’s needs.

Throughout last school year, the board’s negotiations team met frequently with members of the North Penn Education Association and the North Penn Educational Support Association to work toward reaching fair and timely labor contracts. Although the agreements were finalized and approved just recently, the bulk of the work occurred during the hecticness of the 2020-2021 school year. Negotiating two contracts at once is always challenging, and during a pandemic it became even moreso. But we were determined and succeeded at developing contracts that are fair to our staff members, students, families and taxpayers.

Like many of you, I am so thankful to be a part of the North Penn School District community. We live in a community that is determined like no other to provide a safe and world-class education to our children. Thank you for your continued dedication to North Penn.

Sincerely,

Tina Stoll
President
NPSD Board of School Directors
**SUPPORTING PHYSICAL, MENTAL & EMOTIONAL NEEDS**

When students feel safe, they are better learners. When staff feel safe, they are better educators and role models. That’s why North Penn School District was determined to implement supports to serve the physical, mental and emotional needs of our students and staff that will continue into the future.

**Traumatic Event Response Team**

To support the mental health and traumatic event needs of students and staff, the North Penn School District partnered with Access Services’ Mobile Crisis Program to build and implement a Traumatic Event Response Team (TERT). TERT provides coordinated, mobile, mental health crisis support during traumatic events at the building, district and community level within NPSD. North Penn’s 26-member team of administrators, board-certified behavior analysts, school psychologists, counselors, and Montgomery County’s Mobile Crisis Team offers resources, including short-term counseling services to staff and students, assistance to the administrator, linkage to mobile crisis resources, and ongoing follow-up and support long after the initial trauma.

TERT was developed using the framework of PREPaRE, a comprehensive curriculum model by the National Association of School Psychologists that encompasses safety and crisis management in schools. Team members are trained in the PREPaRE crisis model. TERT meets monthly for crisis planning and collaborates with community resources, which led to the establishment of a partnership with Access Services Montgomery County Mobile Crisis Unit. Access Services’ Montgomery County Mobile Crisis Unit not only helps during the crisis, but they also participate in debriefing, aftercare follow-up plans, and referral status.

North Penn’s Traumatic Event Response Team was selected to serve on the Social and Emotional Learning Panel for the Delaware Valley Association of School Business Officials Regional Reframing School Summit in May 2021. The team enjoyed representing NPSD, sharing their experiences and learning more about how they can best serve and support the students and staff at North Penn.

**Assurance Testing**

NPSD offered rapid testing to all staff in its effort to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and keep staff and students healthy. This assurance testing was made possible due to a partnership with the Montgomery County Office of Public Health, supported by the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

The program was a safeguard that identified people who may have unknowingly been carrying the virus and then placing them in quarantine protocols until the presence of the virus could be confirmed. Objectives of the pilot program included:

- Weekly assurance testing for staff and small groups of students who require others to be frequently within six feet or less.
- Maintaining confidence within the community to continue in-person learning and monitor our level of exposure in the school setting.
- Collaboratively working to help protect each other from exposure to COVID-19.
- Developing a model of implementation to support districts around the country.

Participation by staff was encouraged. NPSD also offered testing for students who frequently required others to be within six feet. Weekly testing occurred in all 18 schools and at the district administration building.

Approximately 1,200 adults per week and 500 students in our activities and athletics programs participated. We also tested around 800 students for the prom.
The North Penn School District Educational Foundation’s dedication to igniting student success remained a constant throughout the school year. While opportunities may have been limited, the Foundation was determined to provide a number of grants to keep the creativity flowing and provide unique learning experiences for students.

- The NPSD Educational Foundation continued to show its support of the NPHS Technology & Engineering Education Department by awarding a groundbreaking grant in the sum of $65,000. The grant allows NPHS to be the first high school in North America to offer the Spatial Computer Program to its students through a partnership with Notiontheory, a global leader in XR education and solutions, and Unity, the world’s leading real-time 3D platform. The course, beginning in the 2021-2022 school year provides students with the unique opportunity to learn how to design, develop, and publish Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) applications.

GRANTS BY PROGRAM AREA

- **History/Social Studies**: $4,456.69, 2 grants, 11.8%
- **Music/Arts**: $3,681.04, 3 grants, 17.6%
- **Reading/Writing/Language**: $2,880.00, 3 grants, 17.6%
- **Science**: $1,530.00, 3 grants, 17.6%
- **STEM**: $2,700.00, 2 grants, 11.8%
- **Other**: $1,500.00, 1 grant, 6.0%
- **EITC**: $50,495.00, 3 grants, 17.6%

Total Awarded: $67,243.00 (17 Grants)
STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS
DEDICATION TO EDUCATION AND HELPING OTHERS

Through hard work and determination, students were able to excel during difficult times. They paved the way for success and reaped the rewards.

- NPHS was once again named as one of the top public high schools in the nation by the U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools Rankings coming in at number 1,814 nationally and number 63 in the state of Pennsylvania. Scoring an 89.84 out of 100, these rankings land NPHS in the top 10% in the national rankings and the top 9% percent in Pennsylvania. Schools are ranked on their performance on state-required tests, graduation and how well they prepare students for college.

- The NPSD was honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. The designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students.

- 918 students turned their tassels at three sessions of the 66th Annual Commencement of North Penn High School.

- North Penn High School junior Dillon Scott’s hard work and dedication playing the viola paid off when he was named as a finalist in the Sphinx National Competition for young black and Latinx classical string players for the chance to perform under the guidance of an internationally renowned panel of judges and compete for prizes.

- 33 North Penn High School students attending North Montco Technical Career Center were named to the National Technical Honor Society.

- 12 North Penn High School students were named as semifinalists in the 66th Annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

- 17 North Penn High School students were named as commended students in the 66th Annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

- North Penn High School senior Catherine Cavanaugh was selected as a finalist in the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program by the U.S. Department of Education. Catherine was among 161 students selected nationally and one of only three selected in the state of Pennsylvania.

- 190 elementary English Learner students participated in a virtual English Language Development summer program for beginners and intermediate levels. Advanced elementary students were eligible to participate in the SPARK program while our secondary students took part in summer supplemental learning.
North Penn High School Technology and Engineering Teacher Michael Boyer was selected as the recipient of the 2021 Harold W. Pote Behind Every Graduate: Drexel University’s Award for Excellence in Secondary School Teaching.

Graduating seniors at Drexel University were invited to nominate a special high school teacher who inspired them to pursue a college education as they embark on their careers. Boyer was nominated for this award by NPHS Class of 2016 and Drexel University graduate Jonathan Hollenbach.

During his time at North Penn, Hollenbach was an Engineering Academy student who conducted amazing research with his team on core-sheath phase change nanofibers, photochromic polymers, and analyzing the effects of atmospheric conditions on the electrospinning process. He was also a member of the Engineering Project in Community Service Club (EPICS).
• Montgomery Elementary students will give the future a gift of the past with their 2020 time capsule project. Sign of the times items included toilet paper, hand sanitizer, social distancing floor stickers, masks signed by each class plus a favorite item used by many children during quarantine, sidewalk chalk. Other items included screenshots of Class Google Meets, second-grade journals, Red Ribbon Week door hanger, Chromebook cover and more. The time capsule will be opened in the year 2030.

• Each year, students from the North Montco Technical Career Center compete in the SkillsUSA Leadership and Skill Competition. NPHS students competed with classmates at NMTCC from other sending schools in the competition. The following NPHS students took first place in their program and advanced to the national competition:

  - Morgan McClain - Restaurant Service, Culinary Arts
  - Andrew Gibson - Power Equipment Technology, Recreational Power Equipment
  - Kenneth Roberts - Industrial Motor Control, Electrical Trades
  - Jayla Collins - Career Pathways: Culinary Arts (team), Culinary Arts
  - Julia Fredericks - Career Pathways: Culinary Arts (team), Culinary Arts

• About 700 students took advantage of the NPSD Curriculum Department’s summer programs providing supports over the summer. The programs geared toward different grades helped students remediate coursework; receive additional support in math, science, social studies, English, reading and health; participate in supplemental world language instruction; and reinforce and strengthen foundational skills in reading and math for students who were virtual during the school year.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT AT NPHS

674 of NPHS students took 1,308 advanced placement exams. Of those, 78% received a passing rate.
STAFF HIGHLIGHTS
LEADERSHIP MEANS HELPING THOSE AROUND YOU

The determination of our teachers and staff enabled students to achieve greatness whether they were in-person or virtual.

• **Dr. Pamula Hart** was appointed as NPSD Director of Curriculum and Equity. Dr. Hart has a Masters in Education and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction. She studied multicultural education under Dr. Geneva Gay, nationally and internally known for her work in multicultural education related to curriculum design, staff development, classroom instruction, and Dr. James Banks, widely known as the “Father of Multicultural Education.”

• **Dr. D’Ana Waters**, appointed as assistant superintendent, will work with current assistant superintendent Dr. Todd Bauer, and in conjunction with the NPSD Superintendent Dr. Curt Dietrich, on the oversight of both instructional and other related needs of the school district.

• **Megan McGee-Heim** was appointed director of special education and supports K-post 12 continuum, including programs in gifted education, special education and programs for more specialized learning needs.

• The NPSD’s Office of School and Community Engagement earned 10 awards from the Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association as part of its annual Excellence in Education Communication Contest. The team received one Award of Excellence, six Awards of Honor and three Awards of Merit.

• Penndale Middle School administration and staff members rocked their kindness shirts for World Kindness Day.

• As another school year came to a close, the North Penn School District said goodbye to over 80 beloved employees as they embark on retirement.

• As part of Red Ribbon Week, the Montgomery Elementary School fourth grade team showed their school spirit.
STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Recruitment & Hiring for 2020–2021

The NPSD Human Resources department initiated a massive hiring campaign to find the best applicants to fill vacant positions and fulfill the mission of NPSD by inspiring all students. Part of this strategy included participating in and hosting a number of job fairs to meet with prospective applicants as well as an outreach initiative to the Delaware Valley Consortium for Equity & Excellence as well as the local chapters of the NAACP.

Equity Update

During the 2020-2021 school year, NPSD was once again determined in its important efforts to improve equity for all students. Highlights of our cultural proficiency goal work include continued professional development of all staff with support from nationally known experts, and the creation of task forces to analyze disproportionality data and make recommendations for improvement. This data looked at academic achievement, disciplinary referrals by race, and special education and gifted placement.

In addition, in an effort to recruit and retain diverse candidates, staff participated in recruitment fairs and a club was formed at NPHS to introduce students of color to the field of education. In an effort to engage students, staff and community members, the district celebrated different cultural groups monthly, held regular meetings with the Parents in Equity Committee, the Time for Dinner podcast was launched, and NPHS students once again participated in the Montgomery County Cultural Proficiency and Equity Student Ambassador Program.

STAFF RETENTION

2020–2021

Number of Professionals by Years of Service

- 171 0–4.99 Years of Service
- 217 5–999 Years of Service
- 226 10–14.99 Years of Service
- 203 15–1999 Years of Service
- 164 20–24.99 Years of Service
- 62 25–2999 Years of Service
- 36 30–3499 Years of Service
- 5 35+ Years of Service

RETENTION RATE

2020–2021

- Administration: 86.7%
- Professional: 95.11%
- Support Staff: 89%

NEW HIRE DEMOGRAPHIC

7/1/20–9/27/21

275 full-time, part-time and substitute staff members were hired in all.

- White
- Hispanic
- Black
- Asian
- Other

Administrators
Professional Staff
Professional Support Staff
Support Staff
COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS
OUR COMMUNITY WILL BE FOREVER #NORTHPENNSTRONG

The community is the backbone of the NPSD and was determined to maintain the excellent education for which North Penn is known. They have supported the district and its students and staff in difficult times and shine along with us when we have things to celebrate. In turn, our students and staff engage the community to be partners with us.

- The NPSD launched a new podcast hosted by assistant superintendent Dr. Todd Bauer and Dr. Marjorie Diegue (former assistant director of human resources; current Pennsdale Middle School Assistant Principal). Titled Time for Dinner, the podcast featured a variety of guests who led discussions about social justice, race and cultural proficiency in both the educational realm and beyond. Listen and subscribe to the podcast wherever you typically get your podcasts.

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- North Penn School District received EP-ACT’s 2021 Advocate Award given to a business or school district that helps Eastern and Central PA by making a commitment to support alternative fuel vehicles and technologies within their fleet of vehicles.

- North Wales Elementary School coordinated with The Giving Tree organization for fifth graders to decorate and fill bags with treats and a hand-made note for Meals on Wheels participants while fourth graders did the same for local health care workers.

- In honor of Martin Luther King Jr.’s Day of Service, Montgomery Elementary Students worked with The Giving Tree to make care packages for the homeless that included special treats, warm socks and toiletry items.

- Although many events were canceled, North Penn High School Key Club members were still determined to make a difference in the community and volunteered over 7,685 hours. Students made holiday cards for nursing homes, collected toys and clothes for Ken Crest and collected Play-Doh for a children’s hospital, helped at 5K Scoogie events, helped neighbors rake leaves and shovel snow, collected books for a non-profit for children, and worked with Manna on Main Street and the Kiwanis Club.

The community is the backbone of the NPSD and was determined to maintain the excellent education for which North Penn is known. They have supported the district and its students and staff in difficult times and shine along with us when we have things to celebrate. In turn, our students and staff engage the community to be partners with us.
COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

- While the past year has been challenging, the support of our #NorthPennStrong community has been outstanding. Local businesses including Ocean State Job Lot, TJ Maxx and Big Lots (to name a few) donated PPE to our district.

- In celebration of Autism Awareness month, North Penn celebrated Light It Up Blue day across the district. Students, staff and families were encouraged to wear blue to help spread understanding, awareness and acceptance of Autism.

- As part of Random Acts of Kindness Week, Gwyn-Nor Elementary School created and sent cards to first responders, local businesses, community heroes, active duty military and military veterans in the community.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Twitter
NPSD tweeted 2,900 times since 2009

Twitter Followers

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Facebook

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PRESS RELEASES

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*The number of press releases produced reflects the decreased number of events taking place in NPSD schools.

PUBLICATIONS DISTRIBUTION

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*Alumni Association (registered members) | Alumni Contact List (active newsletter subscribers) | NPSD General Interest
OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS
NORTH PENN INFRASTRUCTURE, KEEPING US GOING EVEN IN TOUGH TIMES

• Crawford Stadium welcomed the class of 2021 for commencement as its first official event after approximately $8 million of renovations. Improvements included handicapped accessible stands, bathrooms capable of servicing thousands of visitors, concession modernization and press box expansion. In August, a community pep rally was held where hundreds gathered to cheer on NPHS fall sports teams and tour the facility.

• Renovations at Knapp Elementary School continued through the 2020-2021 school year. The approximate $26.9 million plan involves renovations to the existing building, the construction of a 13,000-square-foot classroom addition and a new driveway for school buses. It also includes an enhanced, reconfigured front entrance and large group instruction area. Completion is expected in the summer of 2022.

• The NPSD Transportation Department received a grant for $142,128 to be used to purchase equipment to enhance the safety of outdoor events occurring at North Penn High School. The grant project goal is to enhance safety at mass gathering events, school activities, and instructional activities held in the multipurpose stadium facilities.

• For the sixth year in a row, the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International awarded NPSD its Meritorious Budget Award (MBA) for excellence in budget presentation. NPSD is one of only 10 school districts in Pennsylvania to receive the MBA in the 2020-2021 budget year.

• NPSD received a grant for $23,500 from the PA Dept. of Education Office of Safe Schools. These funds were used to purchase equipment to enhance the safety of outdoor events occurring at North Penn High School. The grant project goal is to enhance safety at mass gathering events, school activities, and instructional activities held in the multipurpose stadium facilities.

• The NPSD Extended School Care Program reopened October 26. A staff of 43 site directors, group supervisors, and program assistants provided care for 325 children. The program followed health and safety recommendations to ensure the safety of staff and students. A CARES grant of $167,908 helped support the program during the COVID-19 pandemic.

• NPSD partnered with Hanover Research to conduct a comprehensive survey of staff, students and parents to better understand their perceptions of what went well in the 2020-2021 school year. Key takeaways included respondents’ interest in in-person instruction for the upcoming school year, continued monitoring of public health matters, ensuring students and staff members have adequate social and emotional support, and taking a closer look at block scheduling. Topic areas that scored the highest included district communications and facilities.
OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

NPSD 2020-2021 FINANCIAL SUMMARY*

Revenue

- Local: $216,585,412
- State: $53,955,709
- Federal: $4,928,613
- Other: $10,017,618
- Total Revenues: $285,487,352

Expenditures

- Instruction: $171,791,401
- Support Services: $76,416,334
- Non-instructional: $2,656,848
- Other Financing: $27,640,789
- Total Expenditures: $278,505,372

*unaudited results | The district completed one bond refinancing in 2020-2021 amounting to approximately $9.9 million in Other Revenues and Other Financing Expenditures.

P-CARD REBATES

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Number of Applicants

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INVESTMENT INCOME

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SCHOOL NUTRITION SERVICES -
OVER 2 MILLION MEALS SERVED
AS OF SEPTEMBER 2021

In March of 2020 when statewide shutdowns were mandated for schools in Pennsylvania, NPSD wasted no time in developing a strategy and solution to ensure that its students in need would have access to nutritious meals. Led by coordinator Melissa Froehlich under the federally funded USDA Summer Food Service Program, North Penn’s SNS Department put together grab-and-go breakfast and lunch meals to be distributed to students. With each new mandate and guideline put in place, SNS employees quickly adapted, thinking outside of the box and going above and beyond to keep our students fed.

Even as NPSD reopened its doors for hybrid learning in November, North Penn continued its free curbside meal pick-up program for students learning both in school and at home. A Share Our Strength’s No Kid Hungry campaign grant for $85,000 was used to purchase a refrigerated box truck. The truck assisted the SNS department in transporting meals across the district to curbside pick-up sites and delivery to families who were unable to visit distribution sites. This mobility helped NPSD close the gap to food-insecure families who did not have a means of transportation to curbside locations.

Meals & Snacks Served – July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

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<th>Hybrid Breakfast</th>
<th>Curbside Lunch</th>
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Extended Care & CACFP Snacks 38,284
Curbside Snacks 233,862

Total Meals Curbside & Hybrid 1,641,591
Total Snacks 272,146

NPSD Office of Emergency Management and Safe Schools Highlights

The Office of Emergency Management & Safe Schools worked to ensure learning continued to be safe and accessible to all students by assisting at food and technology distribution sites, delivery of resources to students, and regular checks of shuttered school buildings. As students returned to schools the security team assisted with the implementation of health and safety plans, played a key role in the safe execution of a first-of-its-kind outdoor senior prom at North Penn High School, and with a more traditional-looking series of commencement ceremonies in the newly renovated Crawford Stadium. The process for reporting and assessing threats of violence continued to be a focus. While the number of reported threats was down, time was spent further developing the threat assessment process.

The department also helped manage privately run vaccination clinics for the general public which occurred at district facilities.

Other highlights included:

- Safe Schools Website & Resource for Parents North Penn Outreach HUB participation spearheaded by local law enforcement to focus on early, multi-disciplinary, preventative interactions
- Staff identification & access audit
- Student identification & accountability at the secondary level
- Updated emergency mapping
- Ensured safety and security during the construction process of Crawford Stadium and Knapp Elementary School
## North Penn School District

### NPSD Elementary Schools
(Kindergarten–6th grades)
- AM Kulp
- Bridle Path
- General Nash
- Gwyn-Nor
- Gwynedd Square
- Hatfield
- Inglewood
- Knapp
- Montgomery
- North Wales
- Oak Park
- Walton Farm
- York Avenue

### NPSD Secondary Schools
(7th–12th grades)
- Pennbrook (Grades 7-9)
- Penndale (Grades 7-9)
- Pennfield (Grades 7-9)
- Northbridge School (Grades 7-12)
- North Penn High School (NPHS) (Grades 10-12)

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