

Keystone Oaks

An annual report for the Keystone Oaks community

Summer 2017

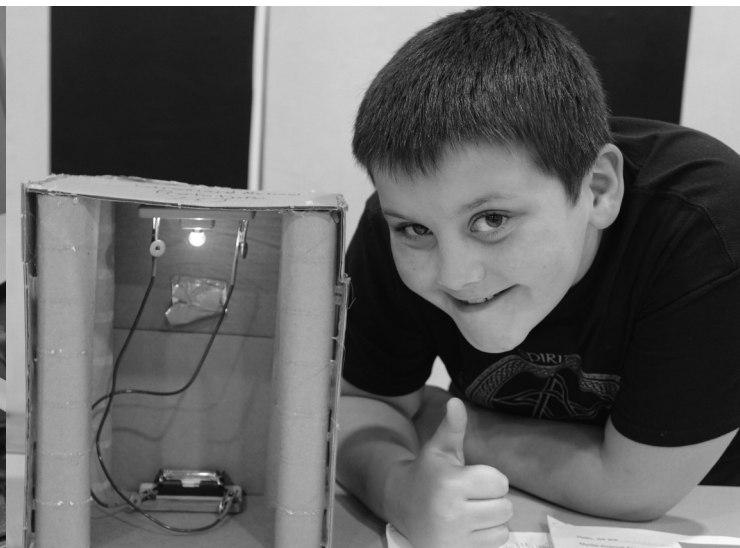
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College & Career Ready

Equipped with a new comprehensive guidance plan and focus on integrating STEAM principles across all grade levels and curricula, Keystone Oaks is committed to preparing students for 21st century careers.

Inside: Learn about the steps the district has taken to ensure that students have the opportunity to learn about a variety of careers. Also, hear from two graduates about their studies at Parkway West Career & Technical Center and their transition into the workforce.



New courses, guidance plan strive to prepare students for the 21st century

High school students who focus on career and technical education - the combination of academic courses and programs that emphasize career preparation - have higher graduation rates, academic engagement, employability skills, and, ultimately, wages and earnings, according to a 2016 research study by the Association for Career and Technical Education.

Studies like these, combined with a plethora of anecdotal evidence from the business sector, are driving school districts, including Keystone Oaks, to provide students with more opportunities for career exploration and courses that develop the skill sets necessary for success in the workforce.

Over the past two years, Keystone Oaks has done just that.

Elementary students now participate in a STEAM course during a six-day specials rotation. Pupils at the Middle School can now elect to incorporate STEM and technical education electives into their schedule. At the High School, nearly one dozen new courses have been added recently, including Computer Science Principles, which students will be able to take during the 2017-18 school year.

In addition to these new programs and courses, Keystone Oaks' Board of School Directors approved the district's Comprehensive Guidance Plan in May, defining the mission of the counseling department and the specific ways in which the district's six counselors will work to prepare students for college and career success.

"The counseling department worked tirelessly on this plan to ensure that programs meet the personal, social, academic and career needs of students," Suzanne Lochie, Supervisor of Pupil Services, said. "Moving forward, there will be an even greater emphasis on career exploration activities and developing academic and career plans for students so that we can focus on providing opportunities that meet students' interests."

One goal of the Comprehensive Guidance Plan is to increase the number of job shadowing opportunities for students and to implement career awareness activities.

This year, Dormont Elementary Counselor Ed Hanna organized the school's first Career Day, where students learned about careers ranging from graphic designer and attorney to phlebotomist and petroleum engineer.

At the secondary level, middle and high school students were exposed

to careers in entrepreneurship, technology, green industries, trades, and media through the U can B Career Education Program.

For Keystone Oaks, the focus on career and technical education is deepened by its partnership with the Parkway West Career & Technology Center, where students have the opportunity to focus on one of 13 career majors during a half-day program and then complete their academic courses during the second half of the day.

By completing programs at Parkway, students often find themselves transitioning directly into career training programs or the workforce after graduating.

Myles Massery was one such graduate. He completed the Public Safety program at Parkway, earning certifications in firefighting, hazmat, first aid, CPR, search and rescue, and basic and rescue ropes courses. He also received his EMT license during his senior year, helping him secure a position with Medical Rescue Team South Authority. While he is working, Myles will work towards his Fire-fighter 1 certification, Paramedic and Combat and Medic qualifications, and his Act 120 certificate, giving him the option to pursue a career as a police officer.

"I've always had a monumental interest in medicine and in helping others," Myles said. "My time at Parkway, combined with my classes at Keystone Oaks, gave me the opportunity to acquire trade skills and earn certifications to have a stable job after graduating."

Doug Sabo had a similar experience. He studied Electrical Systems Technology at Parkway, completing OSHA's 10-hour certification program and earning his lift driving certification. While at Parkway, Doug took advantage of opportunities to fine-tune his electrical skills by participating in the Skills USA Competition, where his four-member team went on to compete at the state level this year.

Doug is now working for Pellegrini Electric and is pursuing his Master Electrician's license.

"We want all Keystone Oaks graduates to be successful - no matter what that looks like for them as an individual," said Dr. William Stropkaj, Keystone Oaks' Superintendent. "By providing students with more opportunities for career preparation and academic courses that meet their needs and interests, we can be sure that students are prepared to meet the demands of the current and future workforce."



THE CLASS OF 2017

130 GRADUATES

98 TWO- OR FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY

8 TECHNICAL SCHOOL

17 WORKFORCE

2 U.S. MILITARY



Elementary STEAM Program Experiences Successful First Year

In the first year of the elementary STEAM program, teachers Jennie Martin and Aaron Colf fit in just about everything one could think of - and their efforts certainly didn't go unnoticed.

Ms. Martin and Mr. Colf crafted lessons around the International Dot Day, the Global Cardboard Challenge and the Hour of Code. They coordinated family STEAM nights, organized the first 5th grade Invention Convention and raised money to build LEGO walls in the STEAM room at each elementary school.

But perhaps their most notable accomplishment is the amount of time they spent participating in professional development at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's Center for Creativity, learning how to incorporate Bee-Bots, Makey Makeys, Little Bits, Puzzlets and other tools into the STEAM curriculum. Participating in these seminars made them eligible to borrow equipment from the Lending Library, a resource unique to southwestern Pennsylvania thanks to support from the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation.

Because of their interest in the Lending Library and their efforts towards integrating the technology into the STEAM curriculum, Martin and Colf were selected for a short documentary about the Lending Library that was shown in March during the Root Sports Charity Night event, which benefits the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation.



Scan the QR Code to watch the Root Sports video about KO's use of the Lending Library.

"The Lending Library has been an invaluable resource to our elementary STEAM program in its first year," said Aiken Elementary STEAM teacher Mr. Colf. "For teachers to be able to try equipment and determine if it's a fit for the curriculum is a wonderful opportunity for

districts. The Bee Bots were a hit with the students and fit nicely with the coding and programming aspects of our STEAM program, so the district purchased a set for each elementary school," he added.

In addition to giving kids access to state-of-the-art technology, Keystone Oaks' STEAM program also challenges students to work collaboratively, think critically and creatively, and to solve problems using items that require little to no technology.

This year, Ms. Martin and Mr. Colf successfully raised more than \$2,200 in both monetary and in-kind donations to build an 80" x 80" Lego wall in the STEAM classroom at each of the three elementary schools, allowing more than 860 students in kindergarten through fifth grade to reap the benefits of block play for young children.


The money was raised through crowdfunding and through proceeds from the teachers' participation in the South Hills Village Barnes & Noble's Mini Maker Faire in February. Plywood and other supplies to construct the base of the Lego walls were donated by local Home Depot stores. The Lego walls allowed the teachers to engage students in a number of hands-on projects, including designing a marble drop with bricks, solving fractions, telling and creating stories, playing, and more. Students had the opportunity to exercise creativity, spatial thinking, fine motor skills, and mathematical reasoning - all of which are areas of focus in the new elementary STEAM class.


Also, thanks to donations of thousands of recyclable items from the community - cardboard boxes and tubes, plastic bottles, egg cartons, cereal boxes, pipe cleaners, and more - students were able to construct Rube Goldberg simple machines that caused a marker to make a dot on a piece of paper as part of International Dot Day, assemble working arcade games during the Global Cardboard Challenge, and redesign their desk, chair or locker for the


Invention Convention - the culminating STEAM project for all 5th grade classes. Students put the engineering design process to work as they interviewed students about potential improvements, built a rapid prototype, refined their inventions, and built their final project, which they presented in front of a panel of judges.

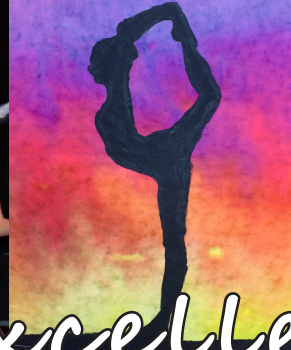
"Overall, the STEAM program far exceeded our expectations for the first year," said Jennie Martin, Dormont & Myrtle Elementary School's STEAM teacher. "We could not be more proud of the way that students embraced the class and joined us in taking risks and are extremely grateful to the district, the students and their families, the community and, of course, the Center for Creativity, for their support along the way."

Keep up with the STEAM Program

 [facebook.com/keystoneoaksSTEAM](https://www.facebook.com/keystoneoaksSTEAM)

 @STEAMteacher12
Miss Jennifer Martin

 @KO_Colf
Mr. Aaron Colf



Highlighting Excellence

Student Achievements

High School students in Ms. Madeline Kay's **Environmental Science** class transformed a storage space into a functioning laboratory and green classroom space. Students removed old materials, cleaned and painted the space and worked with tech ed students to build a table. The space now functions as a green room that currently houses spices such as oregano and basil, as well as an aquaponics tank.

Kira Furlong was accepted into the **Wiegand Internship Program for Regenerative Medicine**.

Jordyn Schmid and Kira Furlong were selected to participate in the PMEA District 1 West Band Festival in January.

14 Middle School students' artwork was published in the spring edition of **Celebrating Art**, a publication that highlights student artwork throughout the east coast. In the past six years, nearly 160 students have had their artwork included in this publication.

Gabriella Ciccone-DeLuca was inducted into the Parkway West Career & Technical Center National Technical Honor Society.

Senior Shane Holden and Freshman Gabriella Ciccone-DeLuca were named Students of the Year at Parkway West Career & Technical Center.

Middle School students participated in a design challenge through the **Energy Innovation Center**. Students collaborated with their peers from South Fayette and Schiller 6-8 to design an eco-friendly cafe for the EIC.

High school students in Heather Hruby's Advanced Painting class participated in the **Memory Project**, creating portraits of youth from around the world who have faced substantial challenges. Each student received a color and digital photo of a child to help them paint their portrait. The finished portraits were sent back to the Memory Project, which then hand-delivered them to children in Ukraine.

The Keystone Oaks chapter of the **National Honor Society** inducted 25 new members. Inductees were recognized for meeting the chapter's requirements of scholarship, service, leadership and character.

As part of their STEM class, Middle School students participated in the "Explore the New Manufacturing" video contest, sponsored by Catalyst Connection. Students were paired with ProMinent Fluid Controls to create a video that answers the question, **"What's So Cool About Manufacturing?"**

Middle School students performed **"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown,"** a Broadway musical featuring Peanuts characters Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Lucy, Linus and the rest of the gang.

High School students performed the musical **"Footloose,"** based on the popular 1984 movie with the same name. The musical was nominated for a Gene Kelly Award in the Lighting Design category.

Fourth and fifth grade students at Myrtle Avenue Elementary performed the musical **Aladdin Jr.**

At Dormont Elementary, fourth and fifth grade students performed the musical **Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory**.

Staff & District Accomplishments

Keystone Oaks High School students scored an average of 1,568 on the fall 2016 SAT exam, earning them a spot in the **top 20 schools in the region**. Keystone Oaks students scored an average of 535 on the math SAT, 523 on the reading SAT and 510 on the writing SAT. This year's SAT score increased by more than 60 points over the fall 2015 SAT score of 1,505.

For the third consecutive year, Myrtle Avenue Elementary was designated by the Department of Education as a **Title I Reward School for High Achievement and High Growth**. The designation is based on PSSA results in reading and math.

Elementary art teacher **Lisa Thoft** and elementary music teacher **Rob Naser** were presenters at the International Society for Technology in Education Conference in San Antonio, Texas in June. Their presentation focused on their use of Microsoft OneNote, both with students and as an internal planning tool.

High school teacher **Kevin Gallagher** was selected to participate in Code.org's Computer Science Principles Professional Learning Program, a series of professional development programs that will prepare him to instruct Introduction to Computer Science Principles and AP Computer Science Principals during the 2017-2018 school year.

Middle School Science Teacher **Nadine Pisani** attended a weekend long "Bringing Science to Life" conference in Pittsburgh. She received a \$500 equipment grant to

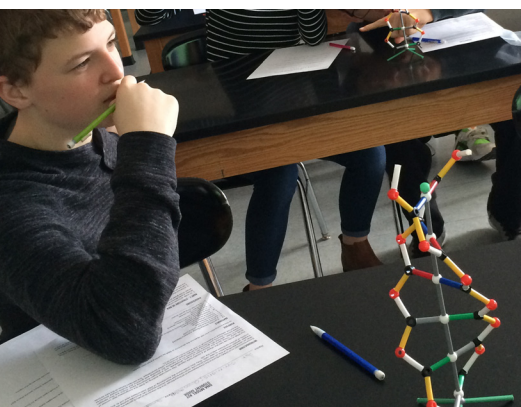


Photo Credit: Samantha O'Brien



o Credit: Samantha O'Brien



purchase DNA models and other materials for her science classes.

Under the leadership of school librarians **Sally Burgman** and **Allyson Hepler**, the district's three elementary schools and Keystone Oaks Middle School have been named Common Sense Digital Certified Schools by Common Sense Media.

Elementary art and music teachers **Lisa Thoft**, **Rebecca Hersan**, **Rob Naser** and **Kerri Karapandi** have been selected to present at the Pennsylvania Art Education Association Conference on their successful Studio & Stage events.

Giving Back to the Community

Keystone Oaks' students and staff raised money and collected goods for a number of area organizations. Notable fundraisers held throughout the year include:

- 25 Aiken Elementary students, staff and family members raised more than \$11,000 and shaved their heads as part of an effort to support the **St. Baldrick's Foundation**, which helps to fund research for childhood cancer. In the seven years that Bill Opperman has organized the event, Aiken has raised more than \$70,000 for St. Baldrick's.

- The Middle School Best Friends Club raised \$900 during **Autism Awareness Week** to support the building's autistic support classroom with a number of events, including a sensory-friendly movie event sponsored by Dormont Borough and

the Hollywood Theater.

- The Student Senate and Health Careers Club raised \$800 for **St. Clair Hospital's Breast Cancer Center**.

- Teachers and staff at Myrtle collected nearly \$800 to fulfill the holiday wish lists of nine children from two families enrolled in the school.

- Both Aiken Elementary and Keystone Oaks High School coordinated fundraisers to benefit the **Highmark Caring Place**, raising more than \$850 for the organization.

- High School counselor Nicole Varrenti, math teacher Josh Kirchner and physical education teacher Nick Kambers organized the High School's participation in the **Salvation Army's annual Teddy Bear Holiday Party**. Staff members, families, clubs and athletic teams purchased gifts and teddy bears for 75 local children in need.

- In October, the Middle School Best Friends Club organized activities to support **Tourette Syndrome Awareness Week**, including collecting monetary donations to help children with Tourette Syndrome go to the annual family weekend camp.

- High School art students donated their talents to several local organizations. Students in Heather Hruby's Beginning Ceramics class donated dozens of hand-crafted ceramic bowls to the **Empty Bowls soup fundraiser**, which benefits the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and Just Harvest. Students in Mrs. Mercalde's Fine Art's Studio classes knit dozens of hats for infants and children.

The hats were donated to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and the Neonatal Infant Unit at Magee Women's Hospital. High school students in Ms. Hruby's and Ms. Cutshall's art classes painted pumpkins to donate to the **Trail of Terror at Carnegie Park**, which benefits Pitcher Park Memorial Skate Park.



Investing in the future:

A look at the new programs, staff additions, and building improvements

Keystone Oaks School District's Board of School Directors approved the District's 2017-2018 Final Budget on June 27. With expenditures totaling \$41,937,262, the budget is balanced without using any of the District's fund balance and maintains the millage rate of 19.0771 mills. A median home in the Keystone Oaks School District, valued at \$114,000, will pay a property tax bill of approximately \$2,175, before any exemptions.

Local real estate taxes make up the largest source of revenue for the district. The administration and Board of School Directors have made it a priority to manage those tax dollars responsibly and limit tax increases on property owners in the district. This year, the Finance Committee began releasing a series of "By-the-Numbers" financial reports to better help the public understand some of the largest portions of the budget, including employee pensions, the district's debt obligations, and the district's fund balance. To view these reports, please visit www.kosd.org and choose "Financial Information" under the School Board tab. Or, scan the QR code to the right.



Scan here to read the "By-the-Numbers" reports.

Over the past five years, significant investments have been made in areas that support the academic, social, and emotional needs of Keystone Oaks students, as well as in the district's physical spaces, which helps to ensure that students and staff are working and learning in an environment that is safe and comfortable.

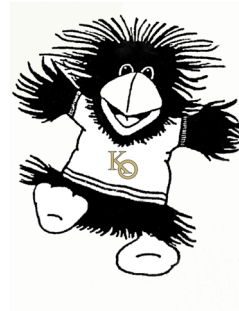
A review of operations has allowed the district to find areas where money can be saved, including sending report cards electronically, moving to centralized printing, and upgrading systems to save on energy and maintenance costs.

See below for a breakdown of the investments Keystone Oaks administration and the Board of School Directors have made since 2012:

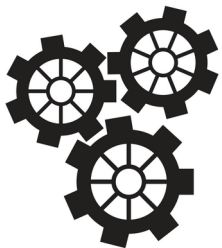
Meeting the academic needs of students....



Since 2012, seven Advanced Placement (AP Courses) have been added to the high school schedule, giving students the opportunity to take courses such as AP Physics, AP Comparative Government & Politics, AP Psychology, and, new for 2017-18, AP Computer Science Principles.



Full-day kindergarten began in the 2015-2016 school year, expanding opportunities for the district's first-year students to further develop their reading, language and math skills while also expanding opportunities for them to explore topics in science, social studies, art, music, and STEAM.

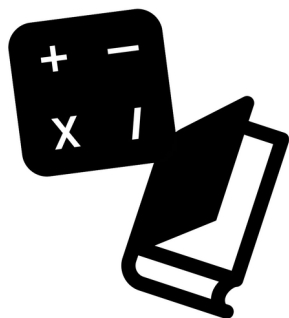


Keystone Oaks launched an elementary STEAM program beginning with the 2016-2017 school year as one of the specials classes that students take during a six-day rotation. The classes challenge students to think critically and creatively, collaborate and communicate with their classmates, and take risks.



Since 2012, the district has made significant investments to upgrade its technology. More than 900 Chrome devices have been purchased for student use, including 20 Chromebook Charts and 280 Chromeboxes for elementary classrooms.

Throughout the district, 14 computer labs were refreshed within the last three years. 60 iPads were purchased for elementary music and STEAM classes. 35 ActivPanels and 10 short throw interactive projectors have been installed in the past two years.



New math and English/language arts curriculum has been implemented at the elementary and middle schools.

Additionally, the sequence of math courses that students take at the middle and high school levels has been realigned.

The district has also updated its network infrastructure, added wireless access points and installed a new content filter and firewall, creating a more secure network for students and staff.

Investments taxpayer dollars have supported in the past five years

Meeting the social and emotional needs of students....



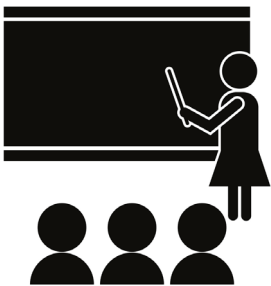
Keystone Oaks hired two mental health therapists at the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year to work directly with students and help them overcome barriers to learning.

Mental health therapy is one of the supports available to students through the Student Assistance Program and the Elementary Student Assistance Program and having two therapists in the schools helps to reduce the obstacles that families often face when seeking outside support.



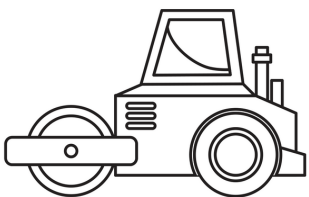
To better meet the needs of Keystone Oaks students, the district is adding additional counseling positions during the 2017-18 school year, including one full-time counselor for Myrtle Avenue Elementary School.

Additional counseling support will also be provided at Aiken Elementary and Keystone Oaks Middle School.

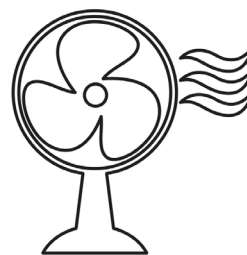


The Special Education Department has continued to adapt to meet the needs of students. Emotional Support teachers, as well as life skills support programs, have been added at the elementary and middle schools. A transition coordinator position was created to assist students in grades 7-12. Additional special education teachers have also been hired to better meet students' needs.

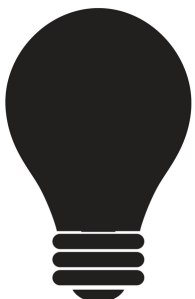
Improving infrastructure to better meet everyone's needs...



In 2015, Keystone Oaks completed a \$2.3 million sidewalk and parking lot project at all four campuses, vastly improving the appearance and safety of the exterior at each campus.



In 2016, the district completed a \$3.4 million capital infrastructure project to upgrade the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems at the three elementary schools and Keystone Oaks Middle School. Not only did this project improve the comfort level in the classrooms, it also resulted in saving more than \$106,000 annually on energy and maintenance costs.



7,200 light fixtures were upgraded to more efficient fluorescent and LED lighting in 2016 and 2017. Additionally, classroom controls were installed, allowing teachers to adjust lighting as needed or for specific tasks. This project will save the district nearly \$120,000 annually on energy, HVAC and maintenance costs.



In June, the Board of School Directors approved \$926,214 in roof repairs at Myrtle Elementary School and on the Middle School/High School campus.

Golden Eagles Teams, Athletes Break Several

Keystone Oaks Golden Eagles teams and athletes have set the bar high for the next generation of student athletes. New school records were set in five different sports during the 2016-2017 season.

Starting in the fall, Keystone Oaks quarterback Alex Smith set school records for season and career yardage and for career touchdown passes. Smith threw for 5,126 yards, rushed for 1,651 yards, and threw 50 touchdown passes during his career as a Keystone Oaks Golden Eagle. During his senior year, he ran 1,118 yards for 19 touchdowns and passed for 3,061 yards and 34 touchdowns, setting school records.

In the fall, the Girls Varsity Volleyball Team made it to the WPIAL playoffs for the first time in school history. After achieving a 9-5 season record, the volleyball team advanced to the WPIAL playoffs and made it to the quarterfinal round before falling to Shenango.

“It was awesome being part of such a great team and being able to make history as the first girls volleyball team to make WPIAL Playoffs,” senior Mollie Allward said.

The Girls Varsity Basketball Team

went undefeated in their section for the first time in Keystone Oaks history, finishing 14-0 in Section 3 of the Class 4A division. The girls team finished the season with a 14 game winning streak, finishing 20-2 overall. They lost to Beaver in the first round of the WPIAL Playoffs and fell to Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic in the PIAA playoffs.

“It was outstanding to be a part of such a great team,” sophomore Gillian Piccolino said. “I am proud of the hard work and determination of all of my teammates, which led to us being undefeated in our section and making school history.”

Also for the first time in school history, the district earned a state gymnastics championship when Tara Gologram placed first in the All Around and Vault competitions.

This spring, several Track and Field athletes won medals and set new school records at the WPIAL Track and Field Championships:

- Ryan Musulin, Tyler Hrivnak, Quran Powe, and Michael Daure took 7th place in the 4 x 100 m relay and set a new school record of 44.56 seconds.
- Tara Gologram took 4th place in the

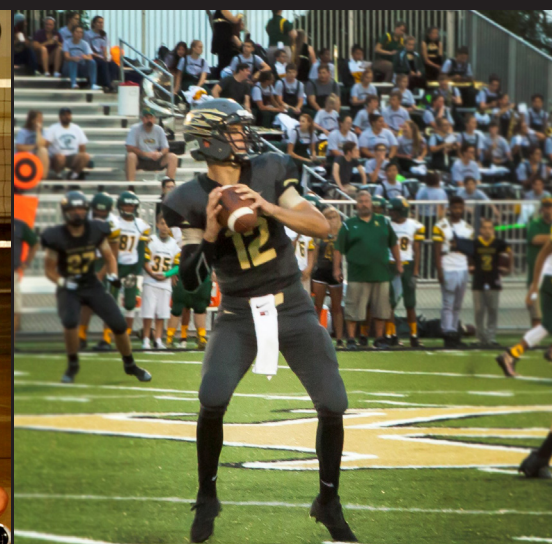
Triple Jump Set and set a new school record with a jump of 36' 2". She also took 2nd place in the Long Jump Set and set a new school record with a jump of 17" 10 1/4".

- Alicia Lehman took 4th place in the Discus Set and set a new school record with a throw of 112' 0".

- Tara Gologram, Selena Canello, Marin Williams, Isabella Bogdan and alternate Elana Lancia, the 4 X 400 M relay team, took 5th place and set a new school record with a time of 4:14.15.

Athletes Tara Gologram, Alicia Lehman, Selena Canello, Marin Williams, Isabella Bogdan, Elana Lancia, and Madison Grogam competed in their respective events at the State Track & Field Championships in May.

“I am very proud of all of our student athletes and our teams on their successful seasons,” Athletic Director Mark Elphinstone said. “To be able to recognize two teams and ten individual athletes for breaking school records in a single school year is truly remarkable.”



al School Records During 2016-2017 Season

Football

Undefeated Section Champions

Alex Smith - PA Football News Offensive Player of the Year, Post-Gazette 3A Player of the Year, Almanac MVP, PA Sports Writers 3A All-State Football Team, AAA Allegheny Football Conference First Team Quarterback and MVP, Tribune Review Terrific 25, FAB 22

Nick Hrivnak, Dylan Knorr, Quran Powe- AAA Allegheny Football Conference First Team Wide Receivers

Tim Mazzarini- AAA Allegheny Football Conference First Team Offensive and Defensive Line, MVP Offensive and Defensive Line

Christian Forrissi- AAA Allegheny Football Conference First Team Offensive Tackle

Jerry Volpe- AAA Allegheny Football Conference First Team Defensive End

Devin Thomas- AAA Allegheny Football Conference First Team Outside Linebacker and AAA Allegheny Football Conference Second Team Running Back

Quinander Leonard, Quran Powe- AAA Allegheny Football Conference Second Team Defensive Back

Joe Tortorella- AAA Allegheny Football Conference Second Team Inside Linebacker

Boys Soccer

Nate Taylor- WPIAL Section 1AA Finest Fifteen

Austin Oleksak- Honorable Mention WPIAL 1AA

Boys Basketball

Jake Mellon- 4A Section 3 All Conference Second team, Round Ball Classic

Ryan Collins, Vonte Mitchell- 4A Section 3 All Conference Honorable Mention

Girls Volleyball

WPIAL Playoffs 1st Time in School History

Mariah Lomire- Section 4 2A All Section First Team

Jada Jones, Morgan Collavo- Section 4 2A All Section Second Team

Kristy Lippert, Mollie Alward, Dana Nardozzi- Section 4 2A All Section Third team

Girls Basketball

Undefeated 4A Section Champs 1st Time in School History, PIAA State Playoffs

Wrestling

Dom Nerone, Nick Whittington, Luke Garda, Tyler Caragein- AA WPIAL Individual Sections

Tyler Caragein- PIAA Southwest Regionals

Swimming

Hayley Frederick, Jessica Timczyk, Cassidy Grabowski, Alicia Lehman- WPIAL Qualifiers 200 Medley Relay

Cassidy Grabowski- WPIAL Qualifiers 100 Butterfly
Hayley Frederick, Audrey Durham, Cassidy Grabowski, Alicia Lehman- WPIAL Qualifiers 200 Free Style Relay

Alicia Lehman- WPIAL Qualifiers 100 Free Style, 100 Backstroke

Boys Volleyball

Pat Morrow - Section 3 All Section, WPIAL All Volleyball Team

Devin Brannon - Section 3 Honorable Mention

Gymnastics

1st PIAA State Champion in School History

Tara Gologram- WPIAL Individual 1st on Beam, 3rd on Bars and Floor, 4th on Vault and 3rd Place All Around

Tara Gologram- PIAA State Champion All Around and Vault, 2nd on Floor, 3rd on Bars, 4th on Balance Beam

Baseball

Colby Rockacy - Section 3 Honorable Mention

Mason Brooks - Section 3 Honorable Mention

Track & Field

Quran Powe - WPIAL AA Medal

Tim Mazzarini - WPIAL AA Medal

Ryan Muslin - WPIAL AA Medal

Tyler Hrivnak - WPIAL AA Medal

Michael Daure - WPIAL AA Medal

Madison Grogan - WPIAL AA Medal, PIAA State Qualifier

Alician Lehman - WPIAL AA Medal, PIAA State Qualifier

Marian Williams - WPIAL AA Medal, PIAA State Qualifier

Isabella Bogdan - WPIAL AA Medal, PIAA State Qualifier

Selena Canello - WPIAL AA Medal, PIAA State Qualifier

Tara Gologram - WPIAL AA Medal, PIAA State Qualifier





Elementary art, music teachers share story of OneNote integration at International Society for Technology in Education Conference

This June, elementary art teacher Rob Naser and elementary music teacher Lisa Thoft represented Keystone Oaks School District at the International Society of Technology in Education Conference in San Antonio, TX with their “OneNote(book) to Rule Them All” presentation, the culmination of their participation in the Arts Education Collaborative’s year-long Leadership Academy professional development program.

“As both a presenter and an attendee, I was inspired by the ISTE Conference,” Mr. Naser said, “because it gave us the opportunity to share examples of how we are using OneNote and to also interact with teachers from all over the country who are also using the same platform.”

Here, Ms. Thoft and Mr. Naser share how they are using Microsoft’s OneNote application to collaborate with colleagues, create cross curricula lessons, and share and preserve student work.

How and why did you decide to begin using OneNote for elementary art and music classes?

We started using OneNote through our curriculum writing with the Arts Education Collaborative (AEC). We loved the way the program uses an “old-school” visual interface with pages and tabs, making it easy to organize work and collaborate with fellow teachers and students. The source attribution, which is embedded as a function of OneNote, teaches good digital citizenship and motivates contributors to participate in group projects as they are automatically credited for their work in OneNote.

How you are using OneNote in art and music classes and in collaboration with other content areas?

In 5th grade at Myrtle, we used OneNote on a collaborative unit for point of view. Each group of students had their own section in a notebook with their own copies of digital class handouts. Some of the features like searchable tags and highlighting made it easy for students to organize their work. We’ve also shared ideas with STEAM classes and are looking forward to engaging students across the KOSD elementary curriculum using OneNote this coming school year.

Additionally, the elementary art and music teachers will be presenting at PAEA in October, here in Pittsburgh. The specific focus of our presentation will be developing a community arts program, using OneNote as the organizational tool to collaborate and deliver arts experiences for families in their schools.

Now that you’ve had a chance to reflect on your participation in the AEC’s Leadership Academy, what do you think has been the biggest benefit to the district’s partnership with AEC?

Most importantly, Keystone Oaks’ students haven’t benefited - and will continue to benefit - from rigorous examination and revision of the fine arts curriculum to include Habits of Mind and 21st Century Workforce Skills. Our partnership with the AEC has been fundamental to ensuring that we are integrating arts across the curriculum, and are engaging all kinds of learners through art and music.

As educators, it has also been beneficial to examine current practices and explore exciting new opportunities, such as “Studio & Stage,” which was developed as a result of our collaboration with the AEC and has allowed us to engage families in hands-on art and music activities.

KO to participate in three-year National Math and Science Initiative

Keystone Oaks was accepted to participate in a three year grant program with the National Math and Science Initiative that will begin with the 2017-2018 school year. The program will be coordinated by high school math teacher Mr. Kevin Gallagher with assistance from Dr. Shannon Varley, Keystone Oaks’ Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, and Staff Development.

NMSI’s mission is to significantly improve student opportunities and advancing STEM teaching and learning by increasing the number of students taking and earning qualifying scores on AP math, science, computer science, and English exams. NMSI provides support and training for students and teachers beginning in elementary school, with a minimal yearly financial contribution from the district.

On average, schools participating in NMSI see first year qualifying AP scores increase by 67%, with a 114% increase over the three year grant period. Students who take an AP course are more attractive candidates for college admissions, and students who take AP courses “are more prepared to handle the rigor of college coursework and are more likely to persist.”

NMSI offers summer institutes for AP teachers, with follow up through fall and spring workshops and mentors. NMSI also provides \$34,000 over the three years to purchase supplies and equipment for AP coursework. Teachers in grades 3-11 will also participate in a summer program called Laying the Foundation, to explore college and career standards.

NMSI supports students by reimbursing 50% of AP exam costs, awarding them \$100 for every score on an exam above a 3, and offering Saturday study sessions throughout the school year.

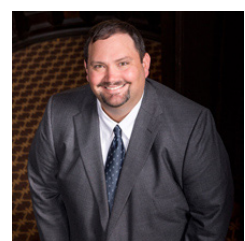


NATIONAL
MATH + SCIENCE
INITIATIVE

Five graduates receive Alumni Achievement Awards in 2016 & 2017

This year, four graduates of Keystone Oaks High School and one graduate from the former Dormont High School were recognized with the Alumni Achievement Award, which strives to recognize alumni for their extraordinary achievement in academia and/or the arts, professional accomplishments, and/or service to the Keystone Oaks community.

In October, graduates Christopher S. Musuneggi, Heather Marie Rice and the late Brian Theobald received the 2016 Alumni Achievement Award. Musuneggi is a member of the Keystone Oaks High School Class of 1994, Rice is a member of the Keystone Oaks Class of High School Class of 2001 and Theobald was a member of the Keystone Oaks High School Class of 2006.



Musuneggi is currently president of The Musuneggi Financial Group in Scott Township. In 2003, Musuneggi and his mother, who had worked in the financial industry for three decades, started Single Steps Strategies, a program designed to help women in western Pennsylvania work towards stable, successful lives. Single Steps Strategies is a nexus of professionals and organizations who provide educational and enrichment opportunities with the goal of empowering women by providing access to resources that can help them manage life's challenges and changes. Single Steps Strategies provides women with practical information about finance, business, and lifestyle issues and connects them with successful women who have faced similar challenges. The organization, as well as The Musuneggi Financial Group, actively supports Dress for Success and Toys for Tots, raising more than \$9,000 in toy donations since 2007.

Musuneggi has received numerous honors, including being named as one of Pittsburgh Magazine's "40 Under 40" in 2014, an Entrepreneurial Fellow with the University of Pittsburgh's Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence, and has received both the FiveStar Wealth Manager Award and the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors Quality Award for each of the past four years. The Musuneggi Financial Group was named by the Pittsburgh Business Times as one of the Top 100 Fastest Growing Companies in 2014. He serves in a variety of capacities for several financial and community organizations in southwestern Pennsylvania. Musuneggi is a graduate of Washington & Jefferson College.



Rice is an Assistant Professor in Slippery Rock University's Political Science Department. In 2016, she worked with a colleague and a team of undergraduate students to launch the "SRU Read to Me" program at the Butler County Prison. The program connects incarcerated parents with their children through reading; parents are recorded on video reading a book and then a DVD of the recording, along with the book, are delivered to the child and a caregiver. In its first semester, the program connected 20 parents with their children through reading.

Additionally, Rice has volunteered with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh for the past six years, where she has mentored a "little sister" since sixth grade. Rice also volunteers with NurturePA, an organization that provides support for new moms and their babies through text messaging; currently, she communicates with three new moms on a regular basis, providing advice, support, and answering questions about parenting and being a new mom. Rice graduated from Clemson University in 2005 and earned her Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh in 2013.

Upon graduating from Keystone Oaks High School, Theobald enlisted in the United States Air Force. He served in the USAF for nine years, completing two tours in Iraq. He also served as a Special Agent with the Air Force's Office of Special Investigations. Brian made the ultimate sacrifice for his country, as he lost his battle with post-traumatic stress disorder on July 21, 2015.



In May, Dormont High School graduate David Newell and Keystone Oaks High School graduate David J. Hickton received the 2017 Alumni Achievement Award. Newell, famous in Pittsburgh for his role as Mr. McFeely on Mister Rogers Neighborhood, is a 1956 graduate of Dormont High School. Hickton is a member of the Keystone Oaks High School Class of 1973 and served as United States Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania from August 2010 through November 2016.

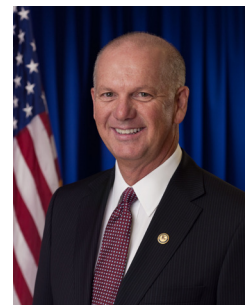
He has served as an executive board member and president of Pittsburgh Public Theater and was a member of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. Mr. Hickton is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University and of the University of Pittsburgh's School of Law.



Pittsburghers everywhere recognize the "Speedy Delivery" greeting that Mr. Newell is famous for delivering over the 34 years that he appeared on Mister Rogers' Neighborhood. He also worked in many roles for the television series, including Properties Manager, Associate Producer and Director of Public Relations for Family Communications, which produced the series.

Mr. Newell has been involved in various aspects of theater with the Pittsburgh Playhouse, the Civic Light Opera Company and The Little Lake Arena Theater, as well as with productions in Los Angeles and Honolulu. He is a board member of the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium, Pressley Ridge, and is on the advisory committee of the Pittsburgh International Children's Theater. Mr. Newell received his certification in Theater Arts from the Pittsburgh Playhouse and a bachelor's degree in English Literature from the University of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Hickton is currently the founding director of the University of Pittsburgh Institute for Cyber Law, Policy, and Security and was recently appointed to the advisory board for The Air Force Association's (AFA) CyberPatriot Program. Prior to this, he served as the United States Attorney General for the Western District of Pennsylvania for six years. His signature achievements as Attorney General including addressing cyber threats, combatting the national heroin and opioid crisis, and enhancing community police trust.



He has served as an executive board member and president of Pittsburgh Public Theater and was a member of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. Mr. Hickton is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University and of the University of Pittsburgh's School of Law.

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*Hail to thee our alma mater ~ Keystone Oaks we pledge to you ~ Faithful love from son and daughter ~
This we promise our life through ~ Gold and white are thy regal colors ~ And as to thee we will be true ~
True to thee our alma mater ~ Alma Mater we love you*



Keystone Oaks School District
1000 Kelton Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15216

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Don't Miss Out on KOSD News & Events!

Be sure to visit the updated www.kosd.org and sign up for the District's weekly e-newsletter.

The first day of classes is August 24, 2017.

Be sure to visit www.kosd.org for important back-to-school information.

Important Building Event Dates

Mark your calendar now for these school events

High School

9th Grade &
New Student Orientation
Aug. 21, 9 a.m.

Open House
Sept. 13, 7 p.m.

College Fair
Sept. 13, 6 p.m.

Homecoming
Sept. 29

Band/Chorus Concert
Dec. 7, 7 p.m.

Middle School

Sixth Grade &
New Student Orientation
Aug. 21, 8 a.m.

Curriculum Night
Sept. 28, 6 p.m.

Band Concert
Dec. 14, 7 p.m.

Aiken Elementary

Meet the Teacher Night
Aug. 21; 5 p.m.
Green Tree Pool

Kindergarten Orientation
Aug. 24, 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Curriculum Night
Sept. 14; 6 p.m.

Parent-Teacher Conferences
Nov. 16; 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Dormont Elementary

Meet the Teacher Night
Aug. 22; 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Kindergarten Orientation
Aug. 24; 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Curriculum Night
Sept. 14; 6 p.m.

Parent-Teacher Conferences
Nov. 16; 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Myrtle Elementary

Meet the Teacher Night
Aug. 22; 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Kindergarten Orientation
Aug. 24.; 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Curriculum Night
Sept. 14; 6 p.m.

Parent-Teacher Conferences
Nov. 16; 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

District Calendar Dates

August
22 & 23 - Teacher In-Service
24 - First Day of School

September
4 - No School

October
9 - No School

November
7 - Teacher In-Service
23-27 - No School

December
25-29 - No School

January
1 & 2 - No School
15 - Teacher In-Service
19 - Teacher In-Service

February
19 - No School

March
28 - In-Service
29 & 30 - No School

April
2 - No School

May
15 - No School
28 - No School

June
7 - Last Day of School
8 - Teacher In-Service
20 - Kennywood Picnic

Make-Up Days
Monday, February 19, 2018
Wednesday, March 28, 2018
Thursday, March 29, 2018
Friday, March 30, 2018
Tuesday, May 15, 2018