



Phoenixville Community Education Foundation

Taking Education to New Heights

EITC Approved Educational Programs

Stepping Up Summer Enrichment

PASD has revised, expanded and renamed its Camp Jumpstart program. The new Stepping Up Summer Enrichment Program is offered to district students finishing grades K-5 to enhance and improve their literacy development while providing a meaningful service/leadership activity for district students from the high school. The summer program includes the following components, taught by trained teachers in a 1:10 teacher to student ratio and supported by the high school student mentors:

Reinforcement of all literacy skills outlined in the PASD elementary language arts curriculum map.

A preview of the following academic year's language arts curriculum

Reinforcement of math and critical thinking skills, focusing on word/story problems.

Enrichment activities which reinforce the language arts and math standards

Activities which emphasize healthy lifestyles

Student attending the summer program will be administered the grade appropriate literacy screening (DIBELS Next, DRA, or PVAAS) on the first and last days of the camp to get pre- and post-quantitative measurements to monitor improvements.

Video Production

Currently nine different programming formats have been established for studio production to enhance the Language Arts curriculum of Phoenixville Area High School. These programs include The`Ville, Phantom TV Morning News, Classroom Close-Ups, and Coach's Corner to name a few. This program provides a different focus, delivery, methodology, and skill training than is typically provided in the academic programs of a public school. All aspects of Phantom TV studio include students and specialized instructors. Through many of the tools that are necessary students have the capacity to broadcast programming through Comcast Cable into the community. This entire production requires student participation before and after school as well as on weekends, and year round throughout the summer. Student produced documentaries supplement the curriculum by providing a student with the opportunity to apply knowledge and skills learned in the academic program. A requirement of the program is that students must research local landmarks of historical significance or periods of time which have shaped our lives and use their photo and video journalism techniques through a variety of software programs to produce a video. Although Phoenixville already has a well-equipped studio additional funding would enable them to purchase additional equipment that is needed to produce professional quality sporting events. These tools would include slow motion, playback, editing in field, along with camera switching, etc. It is their intention to enhance a specialized environment that is integral and necessary to student development.

Afterschool Environmental Club

The environmental club at Phoenixville Middle School involves the students in a year-long program that focuses on the community's environmental health issues and provides students with the tools necessary for improvement of these issues. The club is modeled on the National Earth Force CAPS Program which stands for Community Action and Problem Solving. As students become aware of the environmental issues that exist in their community they learn how to act on them to create positive change. Specialized instructors from Green Valleys Assoc. give participants the knowledge and information they need to make lasting changes in their community.

Youth Philanthropy Program

The program supports the Phoenixville Area High School's efforts toward providing meaningful Senior Project activities mandated by the Commonwealth but independent of the public school curriculum. Students are required to work with various non-profits whose mission statements support a healthier Phoenixville. Instructors include Executive Officers who teach the students the work that is necessary of non-profits to help them appreciate the efforts of philanthropists. The students who are selected represent the diversity of Phoenixville and shows that everyone can make a difference by giving the commitment of time.

Summer Academic Enrichment Program

The highly successful Phoenixville Community Education Foundation Summer Enrichment Program offers over 40 summer courses that enhance the curriculum of students residing in the Phoenixville Area. Academic offerings in the arts, physical education, health, and the sciences are available. Over 25 percent of the Phoenixville Area Middle School student body was enrolled in one or more of the programs last year. Below is a brief synopsis of some of the programs offered during the summer months.

Phoenix Robot Works (PRW)

PRW is offered to Phoenixville Area High School students and is designed to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders—putting their math and science skills to full use by engaging them in exciting programs that build science, engineering and technology skills as well as promoting self-confidence, communication, and leadership. This program uses the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) program as its fundamental base. Students design, build and program robots; apply real-world math and science concepts; develop problem-solving, organizational and team-building skills; compete and cooperate in alliances at competitions. Awards at competition are given for community outreach, design, and other real-world accomplishments.

Dual Enrollment

High school students have an opportunity to gain college credit prior to graduation through this program. The Phoenixville Area School District (PASD) is partnering with Montgomery County Community College so students will be able to take courses for high school and college credit. A few of the courses offered to the students are English Composition I and II, Calculus & Analytical Geometry, Introduction to Forensics and Western Civilization. PASD has also partnered with Drexel University, Bloomsburg University, and Immaculata University giving high school students the ability to take any offered college course for which they qualify and receive college credit.

SeaPerch Robotics

SeaPerch is an innovative underwater robotics program that Phoenixville Area School District is offering to students in 6th through 8th grades. SeaPerch equips teachers and students with the resources they need to build an underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) in an in-school or out-of-school setting. Students build the ROV from a kit comprised of low-cost, easily accessible parts, following a curriculum that teaches basic engineering and science concepts with a marine engineering theme. The SeaPerch Program provides students with the opportunity to learn about robotics, engineering, science, and mathematics (STEM) while building an underwater ROV as part of a science and engineering technology curriculum. Throughout the project, students will learn engineering concepts, problem solving, teamwork, and technical applications.

Building a SeaPerch ROV teaches basic skills in ship and submarine design and encourages students to explore naval architecture and marine and ocean engineering principles. It also teaches basic science and engineering concepts and tool safety and technical procedures. Students learn important engineering and design skills and are exposed to all the exciting careers that are possible in naval architecture and naval, ocean, and marine engineering.

Odyssey of the Mind (OotM)

OotM is an international educational program that PASD is offering to students in grades 1st through 5th. Once the program is developed it will roll out into grades 6 – 12. The OotM team (which includes 5 – 7 students and an adult coach) is given a problem to solve. The coach of the team must not tell the group how to solve the problem. The team members analyze the problem; combine their knowledge and abilities; and research alternate strategies and methods of solution. The team members are using the scientific method hypothesizing a solution, experimenting to learn if the hypothesis is correct and evaluating their findings in terms of the practicalities of time and resources. Members learn there is no one right way to solve the problem. OotM develops critical thinking, creative problem solving skills and team work in the participants. The teams may choose to participate in the competitions at the local level, and if they qualify at the state and world level as well. They learn public speaking, dramatic skills, and how to operate within the constraints of time and place. They must erect their scenarios in a different place for each round of competition and they have a limited amount of time in which to stage their presentation. At the competitions the students see the solutions of other teams (with the same problem) and learn even more about the problem and novel ways of solving it.

PA Junior Scientists Program

The Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) is a statewide organization designed to stimulate and promote interest in science among its members through the development of original research projects and investigations. This project will allow high school students to explore and expand their science and math skills well beyond the traditional classroom. This project will encourage students to actively participate in science and math by following a scientific method to select a project, research the background, formulate a hypothesis, develop an experiment to prove or disprove the hypothesis, and to collect and analyze data from their experiment. Students prepare a written report and give an oral presentation including audio visuals. Competition begins at the school level, and then regional, and state. Competitions give students the opportunity to gain a greater understanding of the scientific community through close association with leaders in the sciences. Students may explore a wide variety of areas, including Behavior Psychology, Biology, Biochemistry, Botany, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth and Space, Ecology, Mathematics, Microbiology, Physics, and Zoology. All projects must be the development of original ideas and research in one of the listed areas of concentration.

The Stock Market Game™ (SMG)

Administered by the Temple University Center for Economic Education, PASD offers SMG to students in grades 6th through 12th. This classroom simulation provides students the opportunity to invest a hypothetical \$100,000 in stocks, bonds and mutual funds. Teams of students research and evaluate the market and make purchases and trade decisions based on their research. Students enter their trades at the Stock Market Game Worldwide on-line site, where they can buy, sell, short sell and short cover their investments. Trades are processed every 15 minutes, and students can view updated portfolios daily. SMG is offered for ten week periods during the fall, spring and late spring. A year-long game is also available. The hands-on game teaches about the U.S. economic system and encourages interest in financial management skills. The Stock Market Game™ program offers a vast library of learning materials correlated to national voluntary and state educational standards in Math, Business Education, Economics, English/Language Arts, Technology, Social Studies and Family and Consumer Sciences. Along with the curriculum based benefits the students are improving their critical thinking, decision making, and communication and research skills as they compete to build the best performing portfolio; not to mention the real-life skills of saving and investing in the market.

Advanced Placement (AP) Programs

Phoenixville Area School District (PASD) participates in the CollegeBoard® Advanced Placement Program. The AP program serves the Phoenixville Area High School (PAHS) students who have met the prerequisites for the chosen course, who are capable of pursuing college level studies and who are interested in working at an advanced level.

The AP program is able to help high school students acquire the skills they will need to be successful in college. Students will be developing time management skills, improving their study habits, honing their writing skills and sharpening their problem-solving abilities. Through AP's college-level courses and exams, students are able to earn college credit and advanced placement when entering their freshman year of college.

PASD currently offers 22 of the 34 available AP courses which span all disciplines of study. Able students are encouraged to select these high-level courses as part of their high school curriculum. The courses are taught by PAHS staff during the course of the regular school year, with some of the courses requiring summer assignments in preparation for the chosen course.

Along with these advanced level courses come added costs for PASD and the high school students. Resources will be needed to provide the technology and classroom supplies required for the courses. Also, upon completion of an AP course, it is expected that students will participate in the Advanced Placement Testing Program offered in May of each school year, which may cause a financial burden to some students. With help from the Phoenixville Community Education Foundation, PASD will be able to continue offering these AP courses and all qualified high school students will be able to sit for the AP exams.