

# Bethel Park CHRONICLES

The Official Bethel Park Municipal & School District Newsletter

Halloween  
Trick-or-Treating  
Tuesday, Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m.



**Welcome Back to School!**  
School starts  
Aug. 24



[www.bethelpark.net](http://www.bethelpark.net)



[www.bpsd.org](http://www.bpsd.org)

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Patrick T. Christy, MD



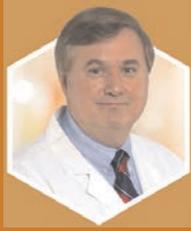
Tera S. Conway, MD



Elizabeth Pronesti, MD



Jourdan E. Schmitz, MD



Paul M. Zubritzky, MD



Trista M. McMahon, CRNP



Vanessa Sidick, CRNP

# Here. For You.

## Personalized OB/GYN Care. Close To Home.

St. Clair Medical Group OB/GYN services expand access to more comprehensive treatments for the communities we serve. Board-certified physicians and certified registered nurse practitioners partner with you every step of the way. This is advanced OB/GYN care that meets you where you are.

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NEW  
PATIENTS

**Mt. Lebanon**  
1050 Bower Hill Road  
Suite 205  
Mt. Lebanon, PA 15243  
412.942.1066

**Robinson Township**  
1 Robinson Plaza  
Suite 410  
Pittsburgh, PA 15205  
412.788.1330

**Bethel Park**  
2000 Oxford Drive  
Suite 415  
Bethel Park, PA 15102  
412.942.5380

Learn more about OB/GYN providers in the St. Clair Medical Group network at [stclair.org/SCMGOBGN](http://stclair.org/SCMGOBGN).



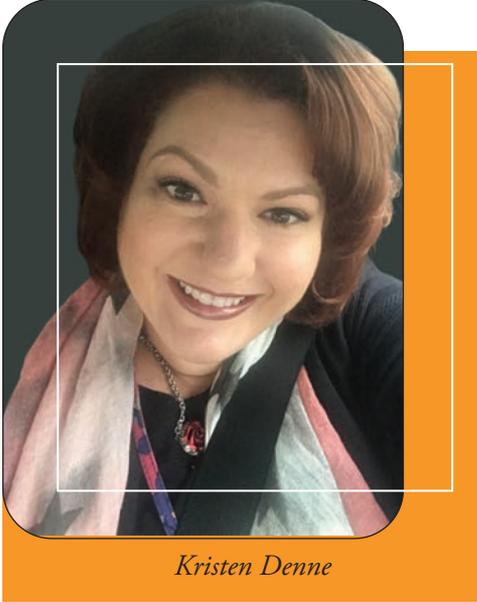
**St. Clair  
Health**

St. Clair Medical Group

[stclair.org](http://stclair.org)

Expert care from people who care.

## New Manager to Take the Helm of Bethel Park Municipality



*Kristen Denne*

At the July 10 Bethel Park Municipal Council Meeting, **Kristen Denne** was approved as the new Bethel Park municipal manager with a start date of Monday, Aug. 28.

"Kristen is very well qualified with substantial local government managerial experience," said Bethel Park Municipal Council President **Tim Moury**. "We're excited to have her on board and look forward to what she'll bring to our residents."

Prior to accepting this position, Denne was manager of Caln Township in Chester County, PA. There she managed day to day township activities including police, administration, public works, their golf course, and municipal authority operations. Prior to that, she was manager of Springettsbury Township, manager of the City of Johnstown, manager of Ambridge Borough, and manager of Dormont Borough.

Denne, who's originally from West Mifflin, PA, is now looking forward to her new role with Bethel Park and moving back to the South Hills region of Pittsburgh to be with family and reconnect with colleagues.

"Bethel Park has always been an amazing community with a great quality of life and good services for residents," she said. "Having the ability to come back to Pittsburgh and particularly the South Hills area where my connections are active was a unique opportunity!"

Denne also serves on the Pennsylvania Municipal Police Officer Education and Training Commission (*MPOETC*) as a commissioner and plans to continue her work there after joining Bethel Park. MPOETC was created in 1974 to establish

minimum training and certification standards for municipal police officers in Pennsylvania.

Denne holds both a bachelor's in political science and a master's in public administration from the University of Pittsburgh. She's also participated in the Credentialed Manager Program from the International City/County Management Association, has completed the Capstone Seminar with the Association of Pennsylvania Municipal Management and completed a Public Entity Leadership Certificate from Pennsylvania State University. In addition to her professional activities, Denne serves as a eucharistic minister and lector at her local parish and has been a guest lecturer at local colleges, public sector professional organizations and non-profits involved in local government.

Bethel Park residents will have the opportunity to meet Denne at an informal introductory event that will be held this fall.

**"Bethel Park has always been an amazing community with a great quality of life and good services for residents. Having the ability to come back to Pittsburgh and particularly the South Hills area where my connections are active was a unique opportunity!"**

Bethel Park Manager  
**Kristen Denne**

## Bethel Park Councilmembers Receive Prestigious Awards at State Conference

Bethel Park Council Vice President **Mark O'Brien** has been named "**Outstanding Council Member of the Year**" by the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (*PSAB*). O'Brien was the sole recipient of this award in the state and received his award Tuesday, June 5 at the organization's annual conference in Hershey, PA.

Both O'Brien and Councilman **Dr. Tim Campbell** received the organization's "**Distinguished Service Award**" as well. This award is presented to individuals performing "distinguished, meritorious and exceptionally outstanding service to the citizens of his or her borough and to promote better borough government," according to PSAB.

"I'm so appreciative of these awards. I'm truly humbled by them," said O'Brien, Ward 6 representative. "I see these as an honor for not only me, but for all of the individuals who've helped me along the way including Municipal staff, my fellow Councilmembers, my family, and so many more who've worked with me over the years. I need to emphasize that this would not have been possible without the decades of outstanding leadership, dedication and the hard work of Council President **Tim Moury**."

Dr. Campbell, a member of Bethel Park Council representing Ward 2 for close to six years, was also appreciative of the recognition.

"I'm so humbled by this award," said Dr. Campbell. "This was 100 percent unanticipated, but 100 percent appreciated."

This year, there were many excellent submissions for the Outstanding Council Member of the Year award according to **John Ehrman**, deputy executive director/director of education and training for the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs.

"Congratulations to Mr. O'Brien on this well-deserved honor and over 30 years of dedicated service to Bethel Park," said Ehrman.

Bethel Park Council President **Tim Moury** agrees.

"Mark is very dedicated and thrives on helping people and addressing residents' concerns," said Moury.

And, when speaking about Dr. Campbell's honor, he said, "I believe it's Dr. Campbell's dedication to the community that brought him this honor. This was especially demonstrated during the pandemic when he was willing to donate his knowledge and expertise to help the community and direct the Municipality through that period. He was and continues to always be available to help and answer questions, and he was instrumental in setting up covid vaccine clinics a few years ago at the Community Center. He's very much a humanitarian."

*("Awards" cont. pg. 10)*



*Mark O'Brien and Dr. Tim Campbell receiving their awards.*

*Mark O'Brien*  
→  
*Dr. Tim Campbell*  
←





# A Message from Council President Tim Moury



Tim Moury

Hello! I hope your summer is moving along well and you've had a chance to enjoy being outdoors in one of our parks through our "Park & Play" events, Recreation programs or just taking some time on your own to visit them.

At the time of this publication, Bethel Park Council has voted to accept two Bethel Park School District buildings that will be closing in the fall of 2026 – Ben Franklin and Washington Elementary schools. This action shows the close partnership between the Municipality and School District working together to create an even better, brighter future for the Bethel Park community!

When these schools close, that will have a direct impact on our Recreation Program since we use both its facilities for activities. However, by taking ownership of them, the Municipality will be obtaining needed space for our programs as well as ensuring that the properties don't become neglected but

rather stay as an active part of our community. Be sure to read the 'School' section of this issue for an update on the District's new elementary center.

Details on how we plan to use the buildings will be coming soon. Please continue to review upcoming issues of Chronicles, 'like' our Facebook page (*Municipality of Bethel Park*) and keep an eye on our website – <https://www.bethelpark.net>.

“ This action shows the close partnership between the Municipality and School District working together to create an even better, brighter future for the Bethel Park community! ”

Council President  
Tim Moury



Signing over the two school elementary buildings at the July 10 Council Meeting.

We're also going to be starting our 2024 Strategic Plan soon. Watch for details to be released in the December issue of Chronicles. Our Strategic Plan outlines priorities set by Council and includes goals and aligns them with our Vision and Mission statements. To view the 2023 plan, visit our website (<https://www.bethelpark.net>).

To all the students starting class soon, here's to a great school year!



Fall Clean Up Day . . .  
**Saturday, Oct. 21**

Watch for details on this community-wide event to keep Bethel Park beautiful!

## Bethel Park Tree Lighting Ceremony Dec. 6!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Municipality of Bethel Park will kick off the 2023 Holiday Season on **Wednesday, Dec. 6** from **6-8 p.m.** at the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. The event will be held once again at the Bethel Park Community Center, 5151 Park Ave.

Entertainment will be provided, as well as refreshments, letters to Santa, and a reindeer making station. A visit from Santa Claus is also expected!

We hope you can attend!



### Join Us for Halloween Fun at these 'Spooktacular' Events!

**LIBRARY**  
Ghost Hunting 101  
Oct. 5 \* 6:30 p.m.

Haunted Hat Tea  
Oct. 13 \* 11 a.m.

Pittsburgh Hauntings  
Oct. 19 \* 6:30 p.m.

See pg. 7 for details!

**RECREATION**  
Halloween fun for two age groups!

CC Clubhouse (grades 5&6)  
Oct. 13 \* 7-9 p.m.

Halloween Program (grades K-4)  
Oct. 14 \* 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

See pg. 28 for details & pricing!



**MUNICIPALITY**

Halloween Decorating Contest  
Oct. 24-31

Annual Halloween Parade  
Oct. 28 \* 9 a.m.

Two routes - same as last year will be posted on [www.bethelpark.net](http://www.bethelpark.net).

Trick-or-Treating  
Oct. 31  
6-8 p.m.

Watch our Facebook page (Municipality of Bethel Park) and website (<https://www.bethelpark.net>) for more details as events near!

[www.bethelparklibrary.org](http://www.bethelparklibrary.org)  
412-835-2207



**MOST PROGRAMS ARE FREE OF CHARGE**

LOVE YOUR  
LIBRARY

### SEPTEMBER IS "LOVE YOUR LIBRARY MONTH!"

Love Your Library is a special fundraising campaign for Allegheny County libraries to work together to raise awareness of and promote giving to libraries during the month of September.

For the eighth year, the Allegheny County Library Association has partnered with the Jack Buncher

Foundation which has generously provided \$200,000 to partially match donations received by all Allegheny County libraries. Gifts from individuals, foundations, corporations, groups/organizations/clubs, fundraisers and Friends groups are eligible for the pro-rated match. Support the Bethel Park Library today!

<https://www.bethelparklibrary.org/support.htm>

## ADULT PROGRAMS

### TECHNOLOGY CLASSES

Make an appointment to learn more about your laptop, e-reader, smart phone, or common software programs.

Appointments are 45-minutes. Bring your charged device and all relevant cords/cables. Don't have a device? Learn on one of our computers! These free classes include (but not limited to): Basic Internet, Email, Microsoft Word, 3D Printing & Windows. **Days and times vary.** Call for more information or to schedule an appointment.

### MYSTERY BOOK CLUBS

2nd Wednesday of each month 10 a.m.

3rd Wednesday of each month 7 p.m.

### MONDAY EVENING BOOK CLUB

Last Monday of each month 7 p.m.

### THURSDAY EVENING BOOK CLUB

3rd Thursday of each month 6:30 p.m.

### THURSDAY MORNING BOOK CLUB

Last Thursday of each month 10 a.m.

### CONVERSATION SALON: DISCUSSION GROUP

1st & 3rd Friday of each month at 10:30 a.m.

This group seeks the satisfaction and inspiration of face-to-face conversations about topics that are enlightening and relevant. The only requirement for attendance is an interest in expressing your views and insights while remaining appreciative of those of others.

### KNITTING AT THE LIBRARY

Every Wednesday! 6:30-8 p.m.

Knitter's of all levels welcome! Bring your yarn and needles to knit and stitch. **THIS IS NOT A CLASS.**



### SCRABBLE CLUB

Fun, friendly games every *Tuesday at 1 p.m.* New members welcome!

### PITTSBURGH SOUTH WRITERS GROUP

2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.

Attention Writers! Pittsburgh South Writers Group offers writers of all genres the inspiration and constructive criticism needed to improve their work.

### GENEALOGY GROUP

Meets the 4th Monday of the month at 1 p.m.

Exchange information and research ideas.

Call or check the Library's Event Calendar webpage for next meeting's date.

### MEMORY CAFÉ

2nd Wednesday of every month from 10:30 a.m.

Join us for an informal Dementia support group especially designed for families and caregivers. **No registration needed.**

### BETHEL PARK LIBRARY BUTTON CLUB

4th Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m.

Are you interested in antique and collectible clothing buttons? This group meets for the promotion and preservation of this wonderful miniature art form. We find joy in hunting for them, cleaning and restoring them and proudly displaying them for others to enjoy.

### UNREAL ENGINE 4 MEET UP - PITTSBURGH

The Unreal Engine is now FREE. Meet-ups are also FREE.

Join us to talk with others interested in creating and learning about the virtual realms that involve the engine locally. Join and RSVP at [communities.unrealengine.com](http://communities.unrealengine.com). **Space is limited.** Meetings at Bethel Park Library.



### NEW MOVIE RELEASE TUESDAYS

Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m.

We will be showing the new blockbuster DVD release of the week on Tuesday mornings at 10:15 a.m. in the Fireplace Room. Why wait to see what everyone is talking about now! **Call for schedule.**

### PARENTING IN THE AGE OF IPHONES AND FACEBOOK

Presented by Outreach Teen and Family Services

Thursday, Aug. 3rd at 6:30 p.m.

The 1-hour presentation will include insight into children and teens lives with social media as well as strategies for parents to help their children navigate the social media sphere safely.

### LOW BACK PAIN AND SCIATICA WORKSHOP

Presented by Matt Melczak PT, DPT, COMT

Thursday, Aug. 17th at 6:30 p.m.

Hess Physical Therapy will be hosting a FREE workshop on low back pain and sciatica. If your lower back or legs hurt with standing or walking, if sitting or driving for long periods of time cause you pain, if your leg "gives out" on you, or if you have numbness or tingling in your butt, groin, or leg, then you will not want to miss out on this event!



## WOOD BURNING CHARCUTERIE BOARDS – ART CLASS

Presented by **Michelle Kirk**, Artist, Teacher and Party Artist  
*Wednesday, Aug. 23rd at 6:30 p.m.*

Bring any cutting board of your choosing to this woodburning class to make a custom charcuterie board, complete with personal designs! **Must register – very limited space!**

## HOW TO PAY FOR COLLEGE

Presented by PHEAA, **Amy Sawdey**  
*Thursday, Aug. 24th at 6:30 p.m.*

Join PHEAA's Amy Sawdey as she presents information on the financial aid application process, what types of aid are available for students, and strategies to start thinking about affordability before getting ready to apply for post-secondary school admission. Time will be built into the presentation to allow you to ask any questions you may have regarding the financial aid process.



## NEW LIBRARYCATALOG CLASS

*Tuesday, Aug. 29th at 12:30 p.m.*

Have questions on the new Library Catalog? This session will cover basic features in the new County catalog. **Must register – Limited Space.** If you cannot make this date, please call for a one-on-one technology appointment.

## HAVE YOU EVER HAD A MYSTICAL INTERLUDE?

*Thursday, Aug. 31st at 6:30 p.m.*

**Emily Rodavich**, author of two books on the subject, has coined that phrase to mean those unexplainable happenings that unexpectedly punctuate our lives. She will share some of her personal experiences, discuss the benefits to be gained from acknowledging mystical interludes as they come into your life, and suggest ways for you to increase them for the purpose of enhancing well-being. You can learn more about the author at [MysticalInterludes.com](http://MysticalInterludes.com).

## WISE WALK

*Thursdays, Sept. 7th – Nov. 9th at 9:30 a.m. (10 weeks)*

Join us for a walk in South Park! Enjoy the company of new friends and old for ten weeks of walking and talking. This program is geared toward adults 50+. For more information contact the Library 412-835-2207, x264. **No registration needed.**



## FROM SOUNDS TO WORDS TO SENTENCES

Presented by **Racheal Berry**, Owner & Speech Language Pathologist at Berry Speech Academy

*Wednesday, Sept. 6th at 6:30 p.m.*

Racheal will help parents understand how words emerge for their child, including pre-requisite skills for words, what words will look and sound like in their toddler, as well as when parents can expect to hear longer and more intelligible sentences. Families will be provided with speech and language checklists appropriate for their child's age.

## HOME BUYER'S CLASS

*Saturday, Sept. 9th at 11 a.m.*

**P.J. Jackson** and **Terri Stefanko** from Dollar Bank along with **Valerie Rose** from Coldwell Banker will be presenting a seminar for anyone in the market or even those just starting to think about buying a home. You can look forward to a walkthrough of the home buying process, tips to prepare everything from your credit to your finances, and answers to all of your questions in a Q&A session.

## 3D PRINTING FOR ADULTS

*Tuesday, Sept. 12th at 12:30 p.m.*

Use the Library's 3D Printer to make personalized gifts, replacements parts, or your own artistic item or creative invention. Take this free class to learn how to use this innovation of industry! If you cannot make the date above, please call for other times. **Must Register – Limited Space.**

## MOVING INTO AND THROUGH PREGNANCY WITH EASE

Presented by **Renee Fera, RN, CEHP**

*Wednesday, Sept. 13th at 6:30 p.m.*

Join Renee Fera, RN CEHP, for a program that seeks to ease the process of pregnancy at all stages – before, during, and postpartum. Learn what you can do to reduce worry, stress less and find strategies for relaxation to enjoy the journey and create better outcomes.



## FAMILY PREPAREDNESS: GETTING A PLAN IN PLACE FOR TRANSITIONS – PART I

Presented by **Chuck O'Neill**, Founder and CEO of Executor Services LLC  
*Tuesday, Sept. 19th at 11 a.m.*

We will educate you on the components needed to get an accurate plan in place for transitions and why it is important to get started right away. Having all your information in one safe & secure location will give you a complete detailed portfolio and a clear path towards future planning goals.

## ESTATE SETTLEMENT FROM THE EXECUTORS PERSPECTIVE – PART II

Presented by **Chuck O'Neill**, Founder and CEO of Executor Services LLC  
*Tuesday, Sept. 26th at 11 a.m.*

This session is designed to educate you and your family on the issues that executors face when appointed as the Personal Representative of an estate. We will discuss the documentation, the time the role requires, and provide knowledge that all executors should be aware of before assuming the role.

## WHAT A ROMANCE NOVEL NEEDS

Presented by Author **Paula Minydzak**

*Wednesday, Sept. 20th at 6:30 p.m.*

Take part in an interactive, creative writing session!

This is a brainstorming exercise where the audience suggests ideas on the following topics:

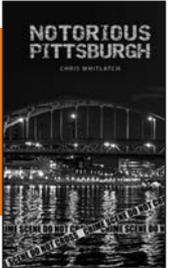
- The perfect or imperfect book boyfriend or girlfriend.
- How much is enough?: curse words, sex, violence.
- Book covers: favorite styles or scenes
- Geography: small towns, foreign countries, US, etc. (*real and fictional places*)

## NOTORIOUS PITTSBURGH

Presented by Author **Chris Whitlatch**

*Wednesday, Sept. 27th at 6:30 p.m.*

Step into the dark alleyways, back rooms and even board rooms with author Chris Whitlatch, as he recounts Pittsburgh's seedier past. Notorious Pittsburgh features more than 20 stories, including Pittsburgh's first bank robbery, a famous jailbreak, as well as several stories from our former red-light district and the prohibition era.



## FAMILY TALK: LISTENING WITHOUT JUDGEMENT

Present by Outreach Teen & Family Services

*Thursday, Sept. 28th at 6:30 p.m.*

In the 1-hour presentation, families will learn how to listen without judgement to improve connection and understanding with their children.

## THE MONTOUR TRAIL – A PENNSYLVANIA GEM

Presented by **Julian Wolfe**, Vice President of the Montour Trail Council

*Wednesday, Oct. 4th at 6:30 p.m.*

You will be introduced to the Trail, its history, present status, and future projects, as well as little known facts.

## GHOST HUNTING 101: HAUNTED TEACHINGS

Presented by Whispering Souls Paranormal

*Thursday, Oct. 5th at 6:30 p.m.*

Did you ever want to talk to ghost but didn't know how? WSPi will bring awareness and education about the spirit world through their personal experiences, scientific methods and equipment. Suitable for all ages.

## WHO KNEW? A PRESENTATION OF THE INTERESTING, THE ODD, AND THE CURIOUS...IN AND AROUND PITTSBURGH

Presented by **Becky Carpenter**

*Wednesday, Oct. 11th at 6:30 p.m.*

Join us for "Who Knew?" an exploration of some of the most interesting, odd, and curious places in and around Pittsburgh. The presentation will provide information about, pictures of, and directions to each location.



## HAUNTED HAT TEA

Experience the spirit of Halloween while enjoying tea and finger sandwiches. Get creative with your Halloween Hat. Prize awarded for the most unusual.

Date: **Friday, Oct. 13**  
 Time: **11 a.m.**  
 Donation: **\$10**

## PITTSBURGH HAUNTINGS

Presented by **Drake Bowan** of the Oakmont Paranormal Society

*Thursday, Oct. 19th at 6:30 p.m.*

Celebrate the spooky season and listen to tales of hauntings in the Pittsburgh area including Ambridge, the North Side, Homestead and other local spots.



**MOST PROGRAMS ARE FREE OF CHARGE**

## IDENTITY THEFT: PROTECT YOURSELF

Presented by PJ Jackson, Andrea Vasquez & Logan Schardt of Dollar Bank

Thursday, Nov. 2nd at 6:30 p.m.

Learn how identity theft can happen, the warning signs and how to prevent it. Find out the most common ways identities are compromised and what steps to take if you've been compromised. Includes a Q&A section.



## INVESTIGATIVE TOOLS YOU CAN USE FOR FREE

Presented by Rich Lord and Jourdan Hicks of PublicSource

Thursday, Nov. 16th at 6:30 p.m.

Learn how to use publicly available data to answer questions about your community. PublicSource reporters will help you answer: How do I access anything from court records to campaign finance data to professional licenses? How can I learn more about the practices of landlords or business owners? What government records do I have the right to access and how do I get them?

## HOLIDAY TEA

Enjoy delightful Holiday music and a game or two while tea is served with finger sandwiches and sweets in a festive atmosphere.

Date: Friday, Dec. 15  
Time: 11 a.m.  
Donation: \$10



The Friends of the Bethel Park Library is a volunteer organization that advocates and promotes the library as a vital community asset. Our mission is to raise public and private funds, enhance marketing and public relations services, encourage volunteerism, and support and cooperate with the library in developing, maintaining, and improving facilities, resources, and services for the public. For the small annual fee of \$15, you can become a Friend, receiving unique benefits such as early notification and access to library and private Friends events. Join us to "be-Friend" our Bethel Park Public Library. Email [friends@bethelparklibrary.org](mailto:friends@bethelparklibrary.org)

To register or for more information call 412-835-2207.

MOST PROGRAMS ARE FREE OF CHARGE

# Connections are Key

By Kaitlyn Campbell, LCSW, Clinical Director, Outreach Teen & Family Services

As the Clinical Director at Outreach, I am the first point of contact when an individual reaches out for support. Since stepping into this role, I have witnessed a significant increase in mental health concerns for children and adolescents in our communities. I am also learning that most families are connecting to mental health resources for the first time. While reaching out for help can feel intimidating, we want to decrease this fear by educating our communities on what to expect when connecting with mental health support.

If anyone in your family is experiencing a decline in their mental health, Outreach can help. We offer a variety of services for children and young adults ages 5-21, along with their parents and families, including individual, group, family, and parenting sessions. There are two ways to initiate our services:

- 1) Visit our website, [www.outreachteen.org](http://www.outreachteen.org), and complete our online inquiry form for individual or group services by clicking the "Contact" tab.
- 2) Call our main office at 412-561-5405 and leave a message on our intake line.

From there, I will contact you for more information related to current needs, past mental health treatment and risk factors. Please keep in mind, Outreach is a low level of care outpatient center, which means we do not offer crisis support. If you or your child is experiencing active suicidal thoughts or thoughts of harm, I will connect you to appropriate crisis services to ensure safety. Otherwise, I will share information about our current availability. And if Outreach doesn't fit your needs, I will provide you with other community resources that would be a better fit.

**Outreach**  
TEEN & FAMILY SERVICES, INC.

There are a few other things I encourage you to consider before connecting with us. First, what are the goals for your family that you want to achieve? This will help during the intake process to identify the best fit for services. Next, if you are planning to use insurance, connect with them first to ensure a provider is accepted under your plan. At Outreach, we believe in supporting our local communities and never allow payment to be an obstacle for care,

but if insurance is important to you, it is helpful to be proactive. Finally, if you are calling for your children, having conversations with them beforehand can aid in identifying the current needs from their perspective.

The most difficult part of getting help is taking that first step to reach out. Outreach is here for all our communities and it's our goal to make a positive impact on the mental health of our neighborhoods. I look forward to working with you. Please know you can reach out even if you are not sure about beginning services. **We are here to help.**



# COMING THIS FALL!

## to the Bethel Park Public Library Children's and Teen Departments

For our youngest learners, early literacy classes will resume. Other offerings for birth-preschool include Tape Town, Monday Morning Meet-ups, and Giggle and Wiggle.

For our school-aged students, we will offer cooking classes, art classes, Scooby-doo fun, and more!

Teens can take part in a murder mystery, among other fun programs.

PLUS, popular family events will return, including our fall festival and annual Gingerbread Workshop.

For details, and to register, visit  
[www.bethelparklibrary.org](http://www.bethelparklibrary.org)  
or scan the QR code below.  
beginning August 15th.



**BETHEL PARK PUBLIC  
LIBRARY**  
Explore • Learn • Create • Connect



## Support for the Bethel Park Business Community

Local businesses are vital to our community! To provide support, the Municipality has established numerous initiatives geared towards raising awareness of all that the Bethel Park business community has to offer. We've also partnered with the Bethel Park Chamber to coordinate our efforts. As part of this, a section of Chronicles will be devoted to these efforts each issue.



### Are You a Local Business Owner?

If you're a local business owner and would like to be listed on the Municipality's 'Dine Shop Support' webpage or would like to be featured for a future local business profile, please email: [kindness@bethelpark.net](mailto:kindness@bethelpark.net).

## Chamber Hosts Local Officials in August

Bethel Park Chamber is hosting a lunch on Aug. 30 location is listed on the website. Bethel Park, Castle Shannon, and South Park officials will be giving a status update on happenings in the local communities. The lunch will be from 12-1:30 p.m. Bring a friend to hear the latest news. Go to the website, [www.bpchamber.org](http://www.bpchamber.org), to register by Aug. 16.

## Chamber (BS) Business Speaks Initiative

The Chamber is initiating coffee sessions called (BS) "Business Speaks" from 8-9 a.m. on various weekdays. Any business interested in hosting will provide donuts, coffee and location. We support our donut shop members Duck Donuts and Dunkin Donuts.

**WATCH OUR WEBSITE FOR AFTER HOURS CONNEXIONS MIXERS AND OUR NEW "CHAMBER (BS) BUSINESS SPEAKS" MORNING COFFEES.** [www.bpchamber.org](http://www.bpchamber.org)

## Career/Vendor Fair

On **Sept. 21**, the Chamber will be hosting a Career/Vendor Fair at the Bethel Park Community Center (5151 Park Ave. Bethel Park) from **3-7 p.m.** All vendors are FREE and can also set up to take applications for staffing during the event. We are asking for Fair Sponsors to help provide "carry bags" to assist with carrying giveaways and vendor literature.

If you are interested in being a sponsor, contact the Chamber at **412-595-8361** or email [admin@bpchamber.org](mailto:admin@bpchamber.org).

This Fair will also hold two workshops from **5-6 p.m.** on how to "Enhance Your Resume for Today's Work Environment" and "New Job Search Tips." Vendors should sign up by **Sept. 18**.

## Holiday Lunch

Our Holiday Lunch is at Houlihan's on **DATE HERE** from **11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.** Auction items are needed for this event and a lunch sponsor. If anyone is interested, please contact the office.

## Great Marketing Package Reach 1,000-7,500 Local Homes!

Great Marketing Package from **SAVE HERE TODAY** for \$69 (Chamber members) You can advertise locally reaching 1,000 homes plus reach 7,500 plus online. Chamber members receive 1 FREE month-almost the cost of your membership! Call for details **412-429-0539** or email [sales@saveheretoday](mailto:sales@saveheretoday).

## Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development Secretary Rick Siger to attend lunch in September

The Bethel Park Chamber is hosting a luncheon on **Wednesday, Sept. 20 at 12 p.m.** featuring **Rick Siger**, our new PA DCED Secretary. He is from the Pittsburgh area. Secretary Siger will be sharing his information with all the local businesses as to what the department will be doing under his leadership.

In his role, he will be leading the Commonwealth's efforts to grow and build our economy and to help small businesses thrive, spurring innovation and increasing opportunities in communities to make Pennsylvania a national leader in growth and innovation.

We are excited to have him return home and share all of his news. Nonmembers are welcome to attend. The lunch will be at the South Hills Country Club. Register at [www.bpchamber.org](http://www.bpchamber.org) by Sept. 14.

## Veterans Lunch-Paws for Vets

On **Nov. 10**, our Veterans Day Lunch will be held from **11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.** at the Bethel Park Community Center. Veterans eat **FREE** and guests pay \$20. We are also continuing our charity with sponsorships for the companion dogs that we purchase for our veterans. We have three dogs so far and plan to place three more. In conjunction with Animal Friends, the Chamber can obtain companion animals for our veterans in need. Sponsorships are \$350.

## Nite at the Races

On Oct. 14 beginning at 5:30 p.m., we are again hosting our annual fun NITE at THE RACES at the GV Social Hall. Last year was so well attended and everyone had a great time. **The cost is \$35 per person or \$30 per person for a table of six.** Tickets are on sale now. Contact the Chamber or go to our website to register at [www.bpchamber.org](http://www.bpchamber.org). If you want to buy your own horse and name it for \$10, you can do that now. Bring a table for six and have a race all your own. The winner gets the purse and earnings from the race. If you are interested in being a Race Sponsor for \$100, you will get special recognition in the program, on our website and a horse. Horse and Race Sponsorships go fast, so contact us early!

## Great Connexions

**Aug. 10** 10:30 a.m. Ribbon Cutting-First National Bank  
**Aug. 16** After Hours-Gianna Via's-Caste Village 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
**Aug. 30** Lunch-12-1:30 p.m.-Olive Garden-Village Square-Local Officials from our "communities service area"  
**Sept. 26** Tri-Chamber After Hours Mixer from 6-8 p.m. with the Canonsburg Chamber and Peters Township at Rusty Gold Brewing in Canonsburg.



A MESSAGE FROM JUDGE ARNONI...

Youthful Leadership in Action



The "Judge Ron Arnoni Leadership-in-Action Scholarships" are designed to recognize and reward outstanding student leaders in the region. Students demonstrating leadership qualities in their communities and schools were encouraged to apply for five \$1,000 scholarships. These awards were made possible by the Leadership-Development and their "LEAD" Program's Title Sponsor, Dollar Bank, Major Sponsor the Pittsburgh Penguins, and Community Sponsor Mrs. Carol and Dr. Brian McDonough.

This year's winners are:

- Lauren Vay – Elizabeth Forward
- Lauren Heh – Bethel Park
- Sydney Rozzo – Upper St. Clair
- Madison Benedict – Baldwin

By recognizing these students' contributions, Judge Arnoni and his business partner Brad Killmeyer hope these student leaders will be inspired to continue positively impacting our communities in the years ahead.

Below are a few of this year's winner's many accomplishments and volunteer efforts to make a difference in the area:

- Members of the National Honors Society
- Captain of their Sport Teams
- Elected President and for Executive Positions for Student Clubs and Organizations
- Section Leaders in Band and Drumline
- Highly involved with numerous community organizations such as Miracle League, Best Buddies, Girl Scouts, Church Groups, Military Appreciation Programs, Students Against Destructive Decisions, Local Libraries, Cancer Foundations, and more.

"I experience many difficult situations in my courtroom. Seeing how we have so many talented, passionate and caring students in our region is promising and encouraging for our future!" said Judge Ron Arnoni.

You can learn more about the scholarships and numerous leadership programs Judge Arnoni and Killmeyer have for the students and schools at [www.OurLeadFamily.com](http://www.OurLeadFamily.com). Also, be sure to follow their organization Leadership Development on Instagram for leadership lessons and future contests and scholarships @OurLeadFamily.com.

"Congratulations to all of this year's winners! We are proud of your accomplishments and are glad to recognize your leadership efforts. Thank you for making our region a better place!" said Judge Arnoni and Killmeyer.

" I experience many difficult situations in my courtroom. Seeing how we have so many talented, passionate and caring students in our region is promising and encouraging for our future! "

Judge Arnoni

AWARDS

(cont. from pg. 3)

Both O'Brien and Dr. Campbell will be retiring from their Council positions in December and are looking ahead to doing more service work for the Bethel Park community in other capacities afterwards.

To read more about Dr. Campbell, please see pg. 13.



(l-r): Council President Tim Moury, Councilman Joe Consolmagno, Councilman Dr. Campbell, & Councilman John Oakes.

# BP VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY



## A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF: *Dave Gerber*

I hope everyone has stayed safe this summer! Your volunteer firefighters have continued to be extremely busy responding to a record number of emergencies each month. We've also participated in dozens of community events. Thank you for showing your appreciation for what our Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company and its members do for the community!

I want to share some safety tips on ways to prevent fires and hazards in our local area. Each of these issues has caused numerous fires in Bethel Park. I invite each one of you to become educated on ways to keep yourself, your family and your neighbors safe.

### Hoarding

Hoarding is defined as collecting or keeping large amounts of various items in the home due to strong urges to save them or feeling distressed when discarding them.

Sometimes many rooms in the home are so filled with possessions that residents can no longer use the room as designed. The home can also become so overloaded with things that everyday living is compromised. Many fire departments are experiencing serious fires, injuries and deaths as the result of compulsive hoarding behavior. Many occupants die in fires in these homes. Often, blocked exits prevent escape from the home. In addition, many people who are hoarding are injured when they trip over things or when materials fall on them. Responding emergency personnel are also put at risk due to obstructed exits, falling objects and excessive fire loading that can lead to collapse. Hoarding makes fighting fires and searching for occupants far more difficult. Those living next to one of these houses can also be quickly affected when a fire occurs due to excessive smoke and fire conditions. Hoarding is a mental disorder that can be genetic in nature, triggered by traumatic events, or a symptom of another disorder.

If you or someone you know needs assistance to overcome a hoarding disorder, we ask that you visit [www.Hoardingcleanup.com/pennsylvania](http://www.Hoardingcleanup.com/pennsylvania) for more information on how to get help.

### Cooking

Cooking brings family and friends together, provides an outlet for creativity and can be relaxing. But did you know that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries? When cooking, you need to cook with caution!

If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the stove or stovetop. Stay in the kitchen while frying, grilling or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen even for a short period of time, turn off the stove. If you are simmering, baking, roasting, or broiling food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking. Keep anything that can catch fire (*oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains*) away from your stovetop. Remember also to check your oven for anything stored inside before you turn it on to warm up.

Keep a lid nearby when you're cooking to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turn off the stovetop. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled. For an oven fire turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

**If you do have a cooking fire, get out!** When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire. Call 412-833-2000 or 911 after you leave.

### Electrical

Electricity is what makes our lives easier. However, we need to be cautious and keep safety in mind! Be sure to have all electrical work done by a qualified electrician. Only plug one heat-producing appliance (*such as a coffee maker, toaster, space heater, etc.*) into a receptacle outlet at a time. Major appliances should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet. Extension



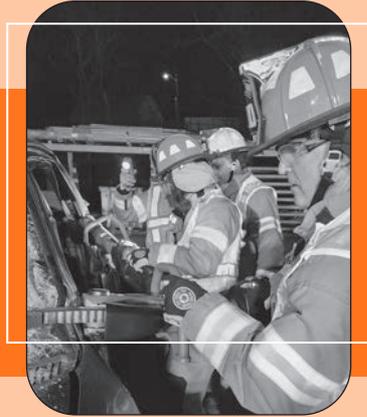
## Get to Know Your Fire Fighters!

*Below is some information about a few of our members. We would like to point out that many did not have any experience in public safety before joining. Many joined at different ages and from different backgrounds. These are your neighbors who volunteer their time to serve and safeguard the community of Bethel Park.*

### Paul Hoppe

Paul recently joined the department at the age of 56 and has served with us now for 1 year. He had no previous experience other than the training he received in the U.S. Navy bootcamp. He holds a bachelor's in mathematics from the University of Pittsburgh and a master's in education from Duquesne University.

Paul worked in supply and operations planning for the past 20 years. Since joining the BPVFC, he's completed his essentials of firefighting classes and is preparing to obtain his international Firefighter 1 Certification. He responds to station 3 on Clifton Road and has really enjoyed the camaraderie with the other firefighters. Paul joined after his wife Leslie noticed a posting for volunteers and suggested he investigate it. His sons Zachary (17) and Samuel (15) enjoy teasing his dad about becoming a firefighter at 56 but Paul has said it has been a great opportunity to learn something new. In his spare time Paul used to play darts, but now really enjoys working in the yard. "If you ever dreamed of becoming a firefighter, now is the time!" he said.



### Jeff Gothe

Jeff has now been a member of the Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company for 42 years after joining at the age of 21. Jeff became interested in joining after watching the TV show "Emergency" as a teenager. After joining, he attended numerous trainings and classes throughout the years. He served as 3rd, 2nd, and 1st Lieutenant, 2nd and 1st Captain and spent 20 years on the Board of Directors.

He worked as a Steamfitter for 40 years. This background served the Fire Company well as he helped design the new station. His favorite part of being a volunteer firefighter was driving and pumping after giving up being a line officer.

"It was fun for the first 30 years, but it becomes a young person's game after you turn 50 or so," he said. Jeff received an award in 1982 for saving a life and assisted with another save in 1988.

*("Chief" cont. pg. 12)*

# Stop Delaying, the Time to Join is Now!

We are **URGENTLY** looking for volunteers of any age to help protect the Bethel Park community of over 34,000 residents and over 650 businesses. Your Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company is 100% volunteer, meaning we don't have paid firefighters on duty at any time, day or night. The minimum age for membership is 18. We provide all members with free training and all necessary equipment.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining, please stop at the Brightwood Road Fire Station any Monday evening at 6:45 p.m. or fill out an application on our website at [www.bethelparkvfc.com](http://www.bethelparkvfc.com).



## CHIEF

(cont. from pg. 11)

cords and power strips should not be used. Check electrical cords to make sure that they are not running across doorways or under carpets. Extension cords are intended for temporary use. Have a qualified electrician add more receptacle outlets so you don't have to use extension cords. Use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage on the lamp or fixture. There should be a sticker that indicates the maximum wattage light bulb to use.

Lately we've responded to fire alarms at many apartment complexes within the area. One thing we've noticed is that these signs are being ignored and doors are being propped open. This is a major safety concern which could allow smoke and fire to travel quickly within the entire facility preventing evacuation. We're asking all residents in apartment buildings to close any fire doors that they see propped open and to ask maintenance to repair any doors not closing completely or on their own. The simple action of allowing these doors to close could save many lives, including your own!

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## Why Are Donations Needed?

Your donations help pay for everything inside of our stations including vehicles, protective gear, breathing apparatus, firefighting equipment (*hoses, nozzles, ladders, hooks, axes, fans*), rescue tools (*cutters, spreaders, rams, jacks, chains, ropes and pullies*), carbon monoxide and combustible gas meters, plus training and classes to use all of these items. A new engine that we're currently in the process of ordering is estimated to cost over \$850,000. Any amount that you can donate will help the Fire Company and will be greatly appreciated.



To donate, visit our website at [www.bethelparkvfc.com/donate](http://www.bethelparkvfc.com/donate), visit United Way or check your mailbox for the flyer you should have received.

Please remember that the Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company does not solicit funds over the phone!

The Municipality of Bethel Park presents

# BOOS & BITES

**Saturday, Oct. 28 \* 3-7:30 p.m.**

Bethel Park Community Center  
5151 Park Ave.

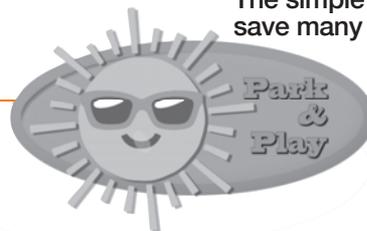
**New Event!**

- \*Local Wine, Beer, Cider & Spirit Tastings
- \*Costume Contest
- \*VIP Lounge
- \*Live Music (Day One)
- \*Local Alcohol & Food Vendors
- \*Local Artisans & Food Trucks
- \*Souvenir Glass
- \*Full Day VIP & Partial Day Tickets
- \*Indoor/Outdoor Event

Pricing: \$35 - \$75 (residents)  
\$40 - \$80 (non-residents)  
\$10 - 20 (designated driver)

Visit [bethelpark.net/park&play](http://bethelpark.net/park&play) for full details!

## FUN & FESTIVE!



## Park & Play is Still Going Strong! Be Sure to Put the Remaining Events on Your Calendar!

### Battle of the Bands

**Saturday, Sept. 2**  
5-9 p.m. - Millennium Park  
Bring a chair or blanket and enjoy a great night of music and competition! Come see local bands competing to be the best! Food trucks will be on hand as well. Free event.

### Star Party

**Friday, Sept. 15**  
7-9 p.m. - Millennium Park  
Come and enjoy a night of viewing the stars, planets, galaxies and nebula. Enjoy a presentation from the local Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh, learn what can be seen in our galaxy, and bring your own telescope or binoculars or enjoy the view through theirs! See pg. 38 for more information. Free event.

### Boos & Bites

**Saturday, Oct. 28**  
3-7:30 p.m. - Bethel Park Community Center  
Hurry! Tickets are going fast! Limited number available!  
Visit [bethelpark.net/park&play](http://bethelpark.net/park&play) for full details!

# Ward 2 Councilman Dr. Timothy Campbell to Retire in December but Plans to Continue His Work Serving Others



Recent “Distinguished Service Award” recipient **Dr. Timothy Campbell** will be leaving his post on Bethel Park Municipal Council in December.

“I served on Council for the same reason that I do a lot of things; mom and dad drove home the lesson that each of us should look for ways to give back,” said Dr. Campbell. “Decades later I still feel we need to get out of our comfort zones to serve others.”

During Dr. Campbell’s six-year Council tenure, he’s been especially committed to the “Live Well Bethel Park” speaker series. He is also focused on ensuring that rail-trails, green space preservation, and park development all continue to flourish in the community. Education has also been a priority; he was instrumental during the pandemic speaking on several of the Live Well programs. He also oversaw the organization of several vaccine clinics at the Bethel Park Community Center. Working with Spartan Pharmacy, almost 60,000 people were vaccinated and more than 26,000 received monoclonal antibodies under his medical supervision.

“A strong focus for Council remains on community wellness. We’re committed to keeping people healthy.”

Dr. Campbell is involved in various state and federal health/disaster teams and initiatives. He serves as a medical officer on the Regional Urban Search and Rescue Team (*PA-1 Strike Team*), Pennsylvania Special Medical Response Team and State Medical Assistance Teams (*SMRT and SMAT Teams*), the regional Hazmat Materials Medical Response Teams (*HAZMAT 450 Team and HMMR*), and the federal PA-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team (*PA-1 DMAT*).

“The disaster response teams are composed of people who fly into the disasters instead of running the other way,” said Dr. Campbell. “I am impressed with the dedicated, self-less volunteers who donate so much of their time. Their car trunks are always packed with deployment gear and rescue equipment.” He reports having more than 30 national and international disaster/emergency deployments over the last 20 years and is ready for more!

Dr. Campbell has also served on numerous international humanitarian missions in more than 20 countries over the past two decades.

After retiring six years ago from a private internal medical practice (having worked about three decades at UPMC Mercy), he is now the Chief Medical Officer for Gallagher Home Health Services and Gallagher Hospice.

“I specifically left my practice to do humanitarian work,” said Dr. Campbell. “I felt it was my time to give back. I worked my last day in my private practice on a Friday in March 2015; the following Monday, I was on a U.S. Navy hospital ship volunteering for a medical mission for six and a half months. My church later contacted me and asked if I could do medical missions in other countries. Since then, I’ve served in many of the countries in the Caribbean, Central America, South America, and in the South Pacific.”

On his trips, he taught host country physicians new and emerging medical techniques and strategies in infectious diseases, austere medicine and general medicine. Dr Campbell treated thousands of patients on his humanitarian trips for a variety of ailments such as hypertension, diabetes, anxiety/depression, heart disease, trauma, cancer, infections, and more.

Yet his mission work didn’t end there.

“Each November I go to Guatemala with my wife **Patti**. We work with migrant coffee workers in the mountains; some of my favorite and most enduring friendships have sprung from those medical trips. I’m so proud of my wife. She has served way outside of her comfort zone. We have even served together during a major earthquake,” said Dr. Campbell

“In order to find yourself, you’ve got to lose yourself. I genuinely believe that when we lose ourselves in service to others, we truly find out so much more about ourselves. And that’s why it has always been my credo to simply give back.”

Dr. Campbell



Dr. Campbell & his wife, Patti.



Dr. Campbell over the years!

(“Dr. Campbell” cont. pg. 18)

# BETHEL PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Timothy C. O'Connor,**  
*Chief of Police*

412-833-2000 OR 911  
**ANONYMOUS TIP LINE**  
412-851-BPPD (2773)



**Sean Gorman**

*Crime Prevention Officer*

## Torch Run for Special Olympics

On May 16th, BPPD Sgt. Grubich, Officers Buzzatto, Frost, Foster-Alauzen, Jacobs and Zarate participated in the annual **Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics**. BPPD, along with dozens of other departments across Pennsylvania, carried the Special Olympic Torch 150 miles from Pittsburgh to State College for the 2021 Summer Games. *Thanks to those who donated to our team; we raised over \$1,000 for this great cause!*

## Summer Fun!

We had a great time meeting some great residents and cool characters over the past few months. From Touch-A-Truck to the Washington Elementary Sports Day to the Fred Rodgers Charity Mini-Golf event, it's always great to see some smiling faces!



*Officers from Bethel Park, Mt. Lebanon and Castle Shannon ran together, carrying the torch through downtown Pittsburgh.*



→  
*Officer Anibaldi with Daniel Tiger and Henrietta Pussycat.*



←  
*Chief O'Connor greets a young resident at Touch-A-Truck.*

↓  
*Officer Foster-Alauzen with a mascot crew at Washington Elementary.*



## Subscribe to 'Crime Watch' E-Mails!

If you would like to be added to the Crime Watch e-mail list, please visit our webpage at <https://bethelpark.net/police/> and enter your name and email on our sign-up form.



## Update on the DEA Prescription Medication Disposal Program

There will no longer be designated drop off days for the disposal of prescription medication. Instead, there is now a box at the Bethel Park Police Department that is accessible 24/7 for the disposal of prescription medication (*no needles or liquids*).

Please place the medication into a zip lock bag without the prescription bottle. The Bethel Park Police Dispatcher will direct you to the disposal box secured inside the police station. If you have any question, please feel free to contact Bethel Park Police at 412-833-2000.



## CONTACT/SOCIAL MEDIA

Anonymous Tips can be called into the hotline 412-851-BPPD (or 2773) or emailed to [crimewatch@bethelpark.net](mailto:crimewatch@bethelpark.net)

You can follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for updates:

**Facebook Page:**  
Bethel Park Police Department

**Twitter:**  
@bethelparkpd

**Instagram:**  
bethelparkpolice



**POLICE**

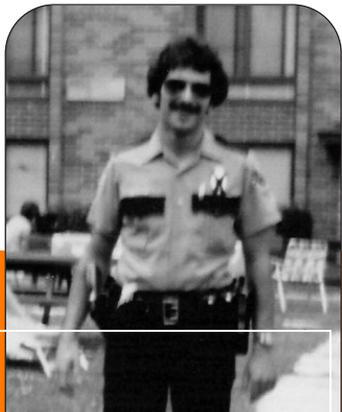
*(cont. from pg. 14)*

# Former BPPD Officer Comes to Visit

Retired Officer **Scott Warner** served Bethel Park from 1979-1986 before moving to California to continue his Law Enforcement career. Officer Warner retired from the Modesto Police Department in 2013 and contacted us recently when he was coming to Pittsburgh for a family wedding.

He shared several old photos and was able to stop by for a tour of the station, reminiscing about the way the Police Station used to look.

"I have very fond memories of my time there, and of the people I worked with at BPPD," Warner said.



## Bethel Park Business Association's "Garage Sale in the Park!"

If you're looking for a great venue to sell your items, the Bethel Park Business Association is taking vendor applications for its 2nd Annual "Garage Sale in the Park" on Saturday, Sept. 16. The event will run from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. and will be held on Industrial Boulevard in the Bethel Park Industrial Park.

The cost is only \$20 for a 10' x 10' space. For more information or to sign up, contact **Barb Peters** at 412-831-5402 or via email at [saws60bp@gmail.com](mailto:saws60bp@gmail.com).

And, plan to stop by to check out all of the treasures just waiting for you to take them home!

The event is sponsored by the Bethel Park Business Association in cooperation with the Municipality of Bethel Park.

**BETHEL PARK BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

# CARAGE SALE IN THE PARK

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16TH**

**9 AM-1 PM**

**INDUSTRIAL BOULEVARD  
BETHEL PARK INDUSTRIAL PARK**

Lots of great affordable items!

*Sponsored by the Bethel Park Business Association in cooperation with the Municipality of Bethel Park*

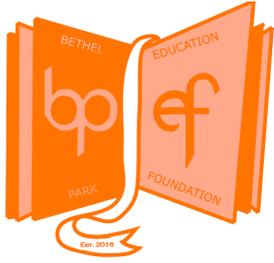
## JOIN THE VIDEO CLUB @ BPTV

**After school this fall:**

Learn & Discuss:  
Content Creation  
Announcing & Broadcasting  
Movies, TV & Social Media

Sponsored by BPTV Staff  
Dave Cable (over 20 years experience)  
Nicholas Callas (Host & Producer on 93.7 The Fan)

For more: 412-831-3304  
OR  
[dcable@bethelpark.net](mailto:dcable@bethelpark.net)



# BETHEL PARK EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Bethel Park Education Foundation (BPEF) is a community-based, non-profit organization whose goal is to support programs that promote quality education. The Foundation works to facilitate communication and involvement among students, parents, school staff, business leaders and community citizens.



Public schools face a variety of new challenges as state and federal funding sources have been reduced or eliminated. BPEF hopes to find alternate ways of funding important initiatives within our schools. The Foundation does not receive any public funding – our programs are supported by individual, community, corporate partners. Our partners donate knowing their gifts are creating opportunities for students to have exceptional educational opportunities. They know that providing a quality education favorably impacts the entire community.

The Bethel Park Education Foundation is independent of the school district but works closely with the school board, administration, teachers and students. All programs that benefit Bethel Park students are considered for financial support. The program list grows and evolves to reflect the needs of the student, teacher, school and district as they are identified.

## BOARD

- Andy Amrhein, President
- Bill Brucker, Vice President
- Tom Bailey, Treasurer
- Deb Luckasevic, Secretary
- Dr James Walsh
- Patti Campbell
- Victor DiPrampiero
- Pam Dobus
- Gail Hoppe
- Cortney Williams
- Lindsay Crowley
- Caitlin Metzler
- Marsha Slezak
- Dr Roger Zelt

Please direct any questions to:  
[bpfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:bpfoundation@gmail.com)

### Dear Fellow Bethel Park Alumnus/Alumna:

We need your help! As a Bethel Park graduate, you know that providing quality education requires investment during and after school hours. Please consider making a donation to support the BPEF ensuring that all Bethel Park students can continue to enjoy the same opportunities for engagement and success.

Your tax deductible contribution can be made via any of the following methods:

- Directly from the BPEF website [www.bethelparkfoundation.com](http://www.bethelparkfoundation.com).
- Via United Way of Southwestern PA by entering code #12998472 on your contribution form through your employer
- By mailing a check to: Bethel Park Education Foundation, 301 Church Road, Bethel Park, PA 15102

You may also wish to consider making a contribution to the BPEF through your business and receive a PA tax credit.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Bethel Park Education Foundation

### Mission

To enhance educational opportunities for our students by increasing community involvement with our schools.

### STEAM Grants

STEAM grants are awarded to students, teachers, and schools to foster creativity, innovation, and imagination.

### Individual Teacher Grant

The Individual Teacher Grant funds initiatives that are innovative and stimulate student learning and creativity.

### Individual School Grants

The Individual School Grants program seeks to provide funding to an individual school. Grants may be awarded in three categories – elementary, middle school and high school.

### Individual Student Grants

As such, grants may be awarded to any student at any grade level in any discipline of study. Additionally, grants will be considered for all physical activity endeavors and all forms of the arts.

No grant shall be administered as a direct monetary payment to the awardee. No grant will be awarded for food, beverages, parties, recreational activities nor field trips.

# GOLF TOURNAMENT

## 6TH ANNUAL

### MONDAY SEPT. 25

\$250 /Person Includes golf, brunch,  
\$100 /Dinner Only dinner & Tons of Fun!

**Bethel Park Fantastic Four Charities**

NEMACOLIN COUNTRY CLUB  
3100 NATIONAL PIKE BEALLSVILLE, PA 15313

REGISTRATION 10 AM

12 NOON SHOTGUN START

Sponsorship Opportunities Available  
Contact Andy Amrhein  
412-760-9614 or [aveyhdw@gmail.com](mailto:aveyhdw@gmail.com)

**SKILL PRIZES 50/50 RAFFLE BASKETS**

BETHEL PARK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION | BPEF | BETHEL PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY



You can now donate via the United Way:

YOU MAY DESIGNATE THE BPEF AS THE RECIPIENT OF YOUR UNITED WAY DONATION. ENTER YOUR CONTRIBUTOR'S CHOICE AGENCY CODE AS: #12998472

301 Church Rd. • Bethel Park, PA 15102 • 412-760-9614 • [bethelparkfoundation.com](http://bethelparkfoundation.com)



# WHAT IS THE BPCF?

BETHEL PARK  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



The Bethel Park Community Foundation is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization that embraces a philosophy of local philanthropy. Tax-deductible contributions made to the Bethel Park Community Foundation are applied to fund local initiative and community programs in these five areas:

• COMMUNITY FACILITIES • EDUCATION • RECREATION • THE FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS • COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY.

Funds are made available through a grant application - visit [www.bpcf.org](http://www.bpcf.org) for more information  
or contact us at: PO Box 811, Bethel Park, PA 15102

## Did you know that the Bethel Park Community Foundation is a tax-deductible non-profit organization?

What better way to support the BP Police, the BP Volunteer Fire Company, Tri-Community South EMS, and a wide range of community focused activities than one tax deductible check to the Bethel Park Community Foundation.

Or would your family or group like to start a scholarship, where you and others can make tax deductible contributions? The Bethel Park Community Foundation as a 501 (c)(3) organization can help with that too!

You can also make a tax deductible donation to Jeez our Bethel Park Police K-9 or to help with furnishing at the Bethel Park Community Center. Both of these have special fund with the BP Community Foundation.

Please remember the Bethel Park Community Foundation in your estate planning.

If you have any questions, or would like to speak personally with a member of the Bethel Park Community Foundation please email us at [info@bpcf.org](mailto:info@bpcf.org) or call 412-831-6800, x740.

Since 1999 the Bethel Park Community Foundation has granted nearly \$750,000 back into the Community of Bethel Park.

Your tax deductible contributions at work in our community.

## Playground Completed

The Park Avenue playground beside the Community Center underwent a complete renovation thanks in part to a donation from the Community Foundation. We hope children of all ages and abilities can come and enjoy!



## Scholarships Awarded



At the annual BPHS Seniors Scholarships and Awards night, the Foundation gave out awards to around 12 different scholarships this year, and we were amazed to get close to 90 applications!

Thanks for Scholarship Committee for presenting last evening!

We are proud to have given away \$32,000 this year in scholarship funds.

Congratulations to awardees:

- Frank LP Edwards Memorial
- American Legion Scholarship
- Cindy Buckley Memorial
- BP Volunteer Scholarship
- Michael J Furry Memorial
- John Deans Memorial
- Kramer Family Scholarship
- Jugo Slav Club Memorial Scholarship

Ian Guarino

Lydia Blum

Meghan Tischler

Melina Stewart

Darien Palombia

Meghan Tischler

Ian Guarino, Hailey Lisak and Martina Tatalias

Evan Lejeune, Ian Guarino, Jeremy Blocklin and

Mitchell Gramm

Martina Tatalias

- BPCF Intern Scholarship

We are so proud of every 2023 graduate, and wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors! You all make it extra hard to pick an awardee each year!

## BPCF Sponsors Farmers Market

The Bethel Park Recreation Farmers' Market has been rated one of the best in the Pittsburgh area. The BPCF has partnered with them as a primary sponsor, to help ensure this valuable community event continues running strong. The Farmers' Market is every Tuesday until the end of September at the Ice Rink lot on Corrigan Drive. Check it out!



## "Party in the Park" a Success



Thank you to everyone who attended the 2nd annual "Party In the Park" event at the South Park Theatre! This was a family and friend-filled day with tons of festivities, food, drinks, prizes, entertainment, and more. The BPCF sponsors the Theatre in support of the arts in our region. Consider checking out a performance at the South Park Theater this summer!

## YOU CAN NOW DONATE VIA THE UNITED WAY:

UNITED WAY SUPPORT YOU MAY DESIGNATE THE BPCF AS THE RECIPIENT OF YOUR UNITED WAY DONATION. ENTER YOUR CONTRIBUTOR'S CHOICE AGENCY CODE AS: #892191



## Find Us On Facebook

The Bethel Park Community Foundation is now on Facebook: Bethel Park Community Foundation. Please visit and "Like" our page for updated information from the Foundation.



### MUNICIPAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Bethel Park Municipality has full-time staff members who perform various tasks within the Municipality. Several staff members attend Council meetings to assist in the conduct of the meeting and to answer questions from Council. Those usually in attendance are listed below: *(All numbers listed are 412-831-6800; specific extensions are listed below.)*

- Timothy O'Connor**  
Chief of Police  
Acting Municipal Manager .....X100
  - Adam Steele**  
Assistant Manager .....X201
  - Lisa Lapaglia**  
Finance Director .....X210
  - Susan Dolinar**  
Public Works Director .....X301
  - David Rudolph**  
Code Enforcement Officer .....X240
  - Charles H. Stover**  
Recreation Director .....X230
- Visit Us Online at [www.bethelpark.net](http://www.bethelpark.net)

**Other Important Municipal Numbers Include:**

- Emergency (fire, police, EMS).....833-2000
- Main Municipal Office Number .....831-6800
- Receptionist .....831-6800 X0
- Bethel Park Community Center .....851-2910
- Bethel Park Public Library .....835-2207
- EMS (non-emergency).....831-3710
- Fire Department (non-emergency)
- Brightwood Station .....835-1127
- Fire Prevention Unit.....835-3473
- Recreation .....831-1328
- Public Access TV.....831-3304
- Jordan Tax Service .....835-5243

### DR. CAMPBELL

*(cont. from pg. 13)*

Along with his six children, Dr. Campbell and his wife have five grandchildren. Dr. Campbell said that he will continue his service work after his term on Bethel Park Council concludes in December.

"I look forward to continuing my work at Gallagher for many years. It's important, meaningful work done one person at a time. I'll still serve on each of my regional, state and national rescue/disaster teams but hope to do a deeper dive into my hobbies---walking, hiking, swimming, biking, and gardening," said Dr. Campbell.

He commended the many people in the community who also volunteer their time.

"There are many individuals in our community who participate in service work below the radar," he said.

"Folks volunteer at hospitals, care for orphaned or fostered children, deliver Meals on Wheels, shovel a neighbor's walk, cut grass, or read stories at the library. Some volunteer for fire, emergency or rescue services. These are the true unsung heroes of our community. They quietly give back, never seeking praise or adoration. This incredible work is going on all the time. These make up the very backbone of our community; they just don't talk about it. It's commendable."



Finally, Dr. Campbell has a solid philosophy that's been his guiding principle in all that he does.

"In order to find yourself, you've got to lose yourself. I genuinely believe that when we lose ourselves in service to others, we truly find out so much more about ourselves. And that's why it has always been my credo to simply give back."

## AVOID COMMON STORMWATER POLLUTANTS THIS SEASON

When rain or snow events cause water to flow over the ground, it's 'storm water'. Stormwater washes over backyards and driveways, picks up any loose items, and carries them to nearby streams and rivers. When these items enter a waterbody, they break down from erosion and release chemical 'pollutants'. Not only do pollutants harm local environments, but they also negatively impact human health! Below are some methods to avoid common stormwater pollutants this season:



#### PUT WASTE IN A BIN

Remove any loose trash and debris near storm drains before storm events. Not only do these items pollute natural waterways, but these clog storm pipes and cause flooding near your home.



#### COMPOST LEAVES & YARD WASTE

Avoid clogging storm drains with dead leaves, broken sticks, lawn clippings and other yard waste. These materials make great compost for gardens and can be collected curbside during the fall.



#### DRAIN POOLS TO SANITARY

Pool water CANNOT drain to the storm system in Bethel Park due to environmental harm. Instead, drain pool water through the sanitary system via fresh air vents.



#### WIPE UP GREASE

Reduce harm to local water quality by soaking up spilled motor oil, grease, or paint with absorbent materials. Once absorbed, place all materials into a trash can.



## BETHEL PARK MUNICIPAL COUNCIL & MAYOR



Jack T. Allen  
Mayor  
831-9923



Timothy J. Moury  
President  
WARD 8  
833-4615

Joseph A. Consolmagno  
WARD 1  
833-7993



Dr. Timothy Campbell  
WARD 2  
418-9197

John Oakes  
WARD 3  
595-7750



Todd Cenci  
WARD 4  
357-0045

Joe Janosik  
WARD 5  
328-6563



Mark J. O'Brien  
Vice President  
WARD 6  
253-3633

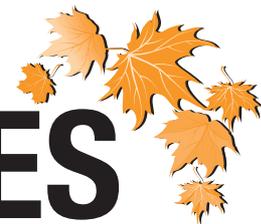
Dave Espinar  
WARD 7  
833-5254



Lindsay Flinn  
WARD 9  
568-3281

FALL 2023

# PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES



## Park Avenue Playground in this month's spotlight!

If you haven't stopped over to see the Park Avenue Playground, be sure to add it to your list of things to do this summer!

Now open, the \$175,000 new playground has a matching aesthetic to the soon to be completed Splash Pad. The playground features a sandbox, swing, pirate ship play structure, a dolphin and sea horse rocker, park benches, and a picnic table.

A highlight of the playground area is "The Serenity Spot" designed for children on the autism spectrum. This play space offers children a comfortable place to step away and express themselves freely. It features a fort-like environment with games, a spinning seat, a rubber kick pad, and a variety of calming activities. Developmental benefits include sensory, social/emotional, cognitive, and motor skills.

"We're so happy that the playground has had such a good reception from our community," said Community Center Director **Emily Skoczlas**. "Children are really enjoying it and soon it will be an even bigger summer destination when the Splash Pad opens nearby!"

An April 10th groundbreaking ceremony marked the beginning of construction for the site.

The playground is located outside of the Bethel Park Community Center, 5151 Park Ave.



### BETHEL PARK RECREATION

Bethel Park Community Center  
5151 Park Avenue, Bethel Park, PA 15102  
Phone: 412-831-1328

Register online at: [www.bethelpark.net](http://www.bethelpark.net)  
Contact us at: [recreation@bethelpark.net](mailto:recreation@bethelpark.net)  
Office hours: Monday through Friday  
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

#### WHAT YOU WILL FIND INSIDE:

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("Spotlight" cont. pg. 33)

PLEASE SAVE THIS INFORMATION.  
PROGRAMS WILL CONTINUE THROUGH DECEMBER 2023.

FALL 2023



# REGISTRATION INFORMATION

## SPECIAL NOTICE

Bethel Park Recreation reserves the right to cancel, combine or divide classes or to make other changes that become necessary and to do so without incurring obligations. Adjustments of fees will be made when classes are canceled by the Department.

## WHEN PROGRAMS BEGIN

In almost all instances, each activity will have a schedule with a beginning date. In those cases where time or day is not available, interested individuals should call the Recreation Office.

## WHEN FEES ARE DUE

All fees must be paid at the time of registration unless special arrangements have been made at the Recreation Office.

## INSURANCE INFORMATION

The Recreation Board does not carry health insurance to cover injuries incurred while participating in any activity. In most cases, hospitalization carried through your employer will cover these types of injuries. Participants are also responsible for their personal property. Valuables should never be left unattended.

## RETURNED CHECKS

Any check that is returned to the Recreation Office as "NSF" will be subject to a **\$35 replacement fee**. All "NSF" checks MUST be replaced within ten (10) working days, or the person will be withdrawn from the roster.

## RESIDENCY INFORMATION

All Bethel Park residents are given preference in registering for programs offered in this newsletter. Classes with limited enrollment will be open to non-residents only if space permits. The Recreation Board reserves the right to refuse admission to any person who misrepresents residency and will not give refunds to those individuals. Non-resident fees are set for each activity and should be paid accordingly upon registration.

## REFUNDS: Please read...

Refunds will only be given upon written request, received in the Recreation Office prior to the beginning of the second class or practice session. For a one-time class or session, a written request will be required 24 hours in advance. Phone requests will not be accepted, nor does failure to attend a class constitute notification of intent to withdraw from a class.

Send your request to:

[recreation@bethelpark.net](mailto:recreation@bethelpark.net)

or by mail at:

Bethel Park Recreation  
5151 Park Avenue  
Bethel Park, PA 15102

All refunds are subject to a **service fee of \$5**. The Department will issue a credit letter to be applied to any non-contractual Recreation program for a one-year period in place of the refund if the individual so desires. Exceptions for refunds or credit letters include special ticket sales and non-refundable programs/activities.

## CANCELLATION OF CLASS

Participants should check with the Recreation Office for updated program information. **Individual phone calls will not be made to verify registrations. Emails, text messages and/or phone calls will be made ONLY for classes that have been canceled.**

## HOW TO REGISTER

Registrations will now primarily be online only. Please go to [www.bethelpark.net](http://www.bethelpark.net) for more information on all of our programs, activities and to register. When you get to the main page, please click on Departments and then Parks/Recreation, there you will see a link to register online.

**Register at least one week before the start of the activity unless otherwise stated.** It is important to pre-register for any activity found in this leaflet because an activity may be canceled when there is insufficient registration. Never plan to attend the first class without pre-registering.

**Individual telephone calls will not be made confirming registration.** The only time you will be notified is if there is a change or cancellation of the class or activity.

## USE OF PHOTOS

Bethel Park Recreation provides opportunities for positive publicity by photographing/videotaping patrons at programs for use in Municipal publications, newspapers and/or television/BPTV.

If you prefer that you and/or your child not be photographed for publicity purposes, please notify Bethel Park Recreation in writing upon registration.

## CLASS ATTENDANCE

Attendance at class offerings is not mandatory. The Recreation Department recommends that an attempt be made to attend as many classes as possible. Generally, the only skill testing takes place in swimming and basketball

programs. All advanced classes in any area are based upon the successful completion of primary or beginning-level instruction. Entrance at an advanced level is up to the discretion of the instructor. Placement is always made with the best interests of the participant in mind.

## CONDUCT

Participants are reminded that undesirable behavior or destruction of any property are reasons to expel the offender from a class or program. Parents are asked to remind children that they should not be in other areas of any building and to respect School District and Municipal property.

## NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS

The only time you will hear from us is:

- \* If there is a change in the time or day for your class
- \* If the class is moved, full, or canceled

So, if it is almost time for your class and you haven't heard from our friendly staff, that's **GOOD NEWS**. It means **YOU ARE IN!** You may call us at 412-831-1328 if you wish to confirm your registration.

## Board of Parks and Recreation

James Gastgeb, *Chairperson*  
James Miller, *Vice Chairperson*  
Joelle Salerno, *Secretary*  
Bill Bonaccorsi - Vince Galloni  
Kelly Kuhn - Bob McCall  
Christina Murtaugh - Russ Spicuzza  
Daryl Walezak

### Monthly Meetings

The Board meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Community Center unless otherwise advertised. Please contact the Recreation Office for specific meeting dates.



**Department Administration**  
Charles H. Stover, *Director*  
Emily Skoczlas, *Assistant Director/Community Center Director*  
Amber Armstrong, *Administrative Secretary*  
Lindsey Sibert, *Special Events Coordinator*  
Angelina Lacek, *Recreation Clerk*

Dr. James Walsh, *School Superintendent*  
Mark O'Brien, *Municipal Council Liaison*  
Dave Espinar, *Municipal Council Liaison*  
Lindsay Flinn, *Municipal Council Liaison*  
Barry Christensen, *School District Liaison*  
Timothy Moury, *Recreation Board Liaison*



# AQUATIC PROGRAMS

★ NEW! NEW! NEW! ★

For more details and to register please go to  
[bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net)

NO SWIMMING ON SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AND POSTED SWIM MEET DAYS!  
Pool availability subject to change

DO NOT BRING VALUABLES TO THE POOL.

## COMMUNITY SWIM

**Friday 6:30PM – 8:30PM**  
**Saturday, Sunday 2:30PM – 4:30PM**  
Daily Family Pass - \$10 for up to 5 immediate family members. (Non-resident \$13)  
Check in with the guard when entering the pool.  
Children under 14 years of age MUST be accompanied by at least one parent who is dressed to enter the water.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information\*

Ages: 5 and over  
Resident Fee: \$5.00 Non-Res Fee: \$6.00

Location: BPHS Pool

## LAP SWIMMING

**Monday & Wednesday**  
**7:30PM – 8:30PM**

Swim without the crowd and do laps on your own on Monday and Wednesday evenings! Sign in and pay at the pool each evening you attend. The fee for nightly attendance is \$5.00 (non-res \$6.00).

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information\*

Ages: 18 and over  
Resident Fee: \$5.00 Non-Res Fee: \$6.00

Location: BPHS Pool

## AQUACISE

**Monday & Wednesday**  
**7:30PM – 8:30PM**

Any adult (21 years of age and over) is welcome to come. You do not have to be able to swim to participate. Classes feature water exercises. Aquacise is held throughout the year on Monday and Wednesday evenings at Pathfinder School Pool. The fee for nightly attendance is \$5.00 for a resident or \$6.00 for a non-resident. Sign in and pay at the pool each evening you attend.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information\*

Ages: 21 and over  
Resident Fee: \$5.00 Non-Res Fee: \$6.00

Location: Pathfinder School Pool



## PRIVATE SWIM LESSONS-SATURDAY

AGES: 6 AND OVER

One on One Swim Lessons! An instructor will give your child individual swim lessons tailored to what your child needs. Our experienced and patient instructors will be in the water with your child while he or she learns at their own pace, whether it is getting accustomed to the water for the first time, learning basic water skills, or getting enough individual help to advance to the next level. These 1/2-hour private lessons will be scheduled during swim lessons.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Location: BPHS Pool



## GUPPIES

AGES: 6 AND OVER

### Beginner Group

Safety is key! This group is based on the very basic fundamentals and teaching water safety. Children will learn how to ask for permission before getting into the water, learn how to enter the water safely, jump into the water safely and exit the water safely.

Guppies also focuses on teaching how to be comfortable in the water by learning front and back glides, rolling to and holding a float independently.

To move out of the group swimmers must master the following.

- Independent Jump from the wall
- Safe entry and safe exit from the water
- Independent Front Glide
- Independent Back Glide
- Front Float & Back Float
- Without assistance front glide, roll to a back float, roll to front float (Swim - Float - Swim.)

Upon mastery, the swimmers will receive a certificate of completion which will be used in the registration process of the next group.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Location: BPHS Pool

AGES: 6 AND OVER

### Stage 1

Building off the skills learned in Guppies, children are going to begin learning two of the four competitive strokes, Freestyle, and Backstroke while also learning the beginning techniques for Butterfly and Breaststroke.

To move out of the group swimmers must master the following:

- Legal Dolphin Kick by USA Swimming Standards
- Legal Breaststroke Kick by USA Swimming Standards
- Unassisted Front Glide with dolphin kick
- Unassisted Back Glide with dolphin kick
- Unassisted Front Glide with dolphin kick to Freestyle - Roll to Back Float - Roll back to Freestyle. (Must swim to the instructor, then repeat back to the wall). (5 - 7 ft. = Maximum distance swimmers will swim.)
- Unassisted Back Glide with dolphin kick to Backstroke to the instructor (5-7 ft. = Maximum distance swimmers will swim.)

Upon mastery, the swimmers will receive a certificate of completion which will be used in the registration process of the next group.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Location: BPHS Pool

## LAP



CHECK OUT THE  
FARMERS' MARKET  
TUESDAYS, 3 - 7 p.m.  
through Sept. 26!

South Park Ice Skating Parking Lot



SATURDAY CLASSES ARE HIGHLIGHTED

## TADPOLES

**SEAHORSE****AGES: 6 AND OVER****Stage 2**

Swimmers will be introduced to holding a streamline off the wall, side breathing in their Freestyle, and the arm techniques for Breaststroke and Butterfly. Children are going to be building on their endurance by swimming farther from the wall with the assistance of an instructor.

To move out of the group swimmers must master the following:

- Perfect Streamline
- Swimming 8-10 ft. of freestyle with a side breath. (*Side breath doesn't need to be perfect.*)
- Swimming 8-10 ft. of Backstroke
- Swimming 8-10 ft. of Butterfly (*Legs need to stay together, arms need to break the surface, timing does not need to be perfect.*)
- Swimming 8 to 10 feet of Breaststroke (*Kick and arms need to be legal timing does not need to be perfect.*)

Upon mastery, the swimmers will receive a certificate of completion which will be used in the registration process of the next group.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

**Location: BPHS Pool****TURTLES****AGES: 6 AND OVER****Stage 3**

Swimmers are now consistently moving building distance for all four strokes by swimming half the length of the pool 15 feet with very little to no assistance from the instructor. Swimmers will be learning how to perfect their side breathing, the timing of their Butterfly, and their Breaststroke to the best of their abilities.

To move out of the group swimmers must master the following. Upon mastery, the swimmers will receive a certificate of completion which will be used in the registration process of the next group.

- Swimming 15 ft. unassisted from the instructor legally of all four strokes

Upon mastery, the swimmers will receive a certificate of completion which will be used in the registration process of the next group.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

**Location: BPHS Pool****NARWHALS****AGES: 6 AND OVER****Stage 4**

Time for the deep end! Swimmers will build their endurance by working to swim the length of the pool in all four strokes. Children are going to be re-educated on water safety, specifically regarding the deep end. Learning how to properly jump/dive from the side of the pool, off the diving board, and swim back to the wall safely as well as learning how to tread water and go into a float.

To move out of the group swimmers must master the following:

- Jumping independently from the diving board
- Jumping from the diving board and independently swimming to the wall
- Treading water for 1 minute, going into a float, and kicking to the wall
- Swimming a full length of the pool (25 yards) without assistance from the instructors

Upon mastery, the swimmers will receive a certificate of completion which will be used in the registration process of the next group.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

**Location: BPHS Pool****DOLPHINS****Ages: 6 and over****Stage 5**

Loving swimming? Dolphins is the perfect group to take right before your try out to join Bethel Park Recreation Swim Team. This group is going to provide you with a leg up on the competition by preparing you with everything you need to know for your first day. Swimmers are going to continue to build on their endurance by swimming farther than 25 yards and learning how to properly do flip turns, open turns, and diving. This group is also going to educate the swimmers on appropriate terminology that is used daily in a competitive swim practice setting. This is a great group to take in addition to or before the Sharks program.

To move out of the group swimmers must master the following:

- Diving from the side of the pool
- Reading the clock
- Swimming a 50 + of each competitive stroke

Upon Completion of the Dolphins Group, swimmers will be given a certificate to bring to the coaches of the Bethel Park Recreation Swim Team to receive a Free Evaluation.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

**Location: BPHS Pool****PITTSBURGH ARTISTIC SWIMMING**

Artistic Swimming combines the grace of dance, the agility of gymnastics and the athleticism of swimming all in one sport. Swimmers will perform a variety of individual figures and team routines which include performances of coordinated movements (*similar to dance*) in time to music. This exciting sport encourages confidence, creativity, strength, flexibility and teamwork. Instructors have competed in National/International Age Group, Intercollegiate and/or Masters Competitions. As the team progresses, swimmers will have the opportunity to compete or participate in a swim show for friends and family. USA Artistic Swimming safety protocols will be used. Swimmers do not need prior experience but should be able to swim 25 yards freestyle and backstroke (*pool length*). Swimmers will need a swimsuit, cap and nose clips. Email [pghartisticswim@gmail.com](mailto:pghartisticswim@gmail.com) for more details.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 8 - 18  
**Resident Fee: \$50.00** Non-Res Fee: \$55.00  
**Twice a week Fee: \$70.00** Non-Res Fee: \$75.00  
 6 session dates

3400.370  
 Date: 09/10/2023 - 10/22/2023 Sun  
 Time: 3:30PM - 5:00PM

3400.371  
 Dates: 09/12/2023 - 10/24/2023 Tue  
 Time: 7:30PM - 9:00PM

3400.372  
 Dates: 09/14/2023 - 10/26/2023 Thu  
 Time: 7:30PM - 9:00PM

3400.373  
 Date: 10/29/2023 - 12/17/2023 Sun  
 Time: 3:30PM - 5:00PM

3400.374  
 Dates: 10/31/2023 - 12/19/2023 Tue  
 Time: 7:30PM - 9:00PM

3400.375  
 Dates: 11/02/2023 - 12/21/2023 Thu  
 Time: 7:30PM - 9:00PM

**Location: BPHS Pool****No Class: Nov. 23, 26****Field Banner Sponsors**

Bethel Park Recreation would like to thank the following businesses for participating in our Field Banner Program:

Alpine Pools  
 Become Better Sport Performance  
 Beedle's Ice Cream  
 Bethel Park Community Foundation  
 Bethel Park Democratic Committee  
 Bethel Park Girls Softball Association  
 Bethel Park Recreation  
 Bethel Park Recreation Farmers' Market  
 Bethel Park Republican Committee  
 Bethel Park Soccer Association  
 Bill Flinn Agency  
 Brentwood Bank  
 Britney Hollick State Farm  
 Dunn Garage Doors  
 Flora Park Garden Center  
 Ginger Construction  
 Good Orthodontics  
 Highpoint Fitness  
 Hillcrest Christian Academy  
 Ivybrook Academy South Fayette  
 Jane York- Coldwell Banker  
 Jersey Mike's Subs  
 Jess and Chris Ollio Team  
 Joey Fabus Childhood Cancer Foundation  
 Judge Ron Arnoni  
 Keller Williams- Cindy Rack  
 Kohl Floor Sanding & Refinishing  
 Kona Ice  
 Lois Johnson Learning & Child Care Center  
 M & M Photography  
 Ma & Pop's Country Kitchen  
 Maceil's Autobody  
 Magnum PSI  
 Michael Brothers Hauling  
 Mon River Supply  
 Noble Environmental  
 No Limits Martial Arts  
 Olive Oils Pizza  
 Pacer Track Club  
 Pasta Too  
 Planet Roof  
 Rita's Italian Ice  
 Slaney's Auto  
 South Hills Honda  
 South Park Shops  
 Spartan Pharmacy  
 Superior Remodeling & Renovation  
 Team Nutz  
 The Pittsburgh Football Foundation  
 The Big Fish Contracting Company  
 USC-Bethel Park Rotary Breakfast Club  
 USC Tennis  
 Vocelli Pizza at Cool Springs



## OTHER YOUTH PROGRAMS

### Travel Basketball Team Tryouts 2023-24 Season

Bethel Park Travel Basketball will be holding tryouts for boys' and girls grades 3 through 8.

Players **MUST** attend at least two of the three tryouts with their specific grade level and gender. Players will not be permitted to attend tryout sessions with another grade level.

Tryouts will be conducted in September.

Please follow the Bethel Park Basketball Association Facebook page for announcements regarding dates and times, as well as to inquire about any questions.

Travel Basketball requires a significant time commitment. Players are expected to attend practices and games and to hone their skills on their own as well.

### Bethel Park Hockey

Interested in playing ice hockey? If you want to know more about BP Hockey, please contact **Jon Tietz** at [bphockeypresident@gmail.com](mailto:bphockeypresident@gmail.com). We may have some openings available on our JV2 team.

### Bethel Park Jr. Wrestling

Ages: 5-12

Grades: K-6

Registration will be held on **Wednesday, Oct. 18 2023 from 6:30-8 p.m.** at the Bethel Park Community Center.

You must bring **3 checks** to registration (1 for registration, 2 for deposits).

1st wrestler - \$120

2nd wrestler - \$100

3rd or more wrestler(s) - \$30 per child

Additional Requirement: Equip deposit - \$80 / Duty deposit - \$200.

Practices for beginners will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-7 p.m. Practices for experienced will be held Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. The first practice for experienced will be on Monday, Nov. 13 and the first practice for beginners will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 14. Matches and tournaments are held Saturdays and/or Sundays and a few possible weeknights during the season, which ends in late February or early March. Your child will practice and compete based on their age, weight, and experience. A schedule of matches will be available beginning in December 2023.

Please contact [Bpjwhawks@gmail.com](mailto:Bpjwhawks@gmail.com) or [Brian.Kunkle@hotmail.com](mailto:Brian.Kunkle@hotmail.com) with any questions.

### PACER Cross Country Track

**REGISTRATION** and the first practice will be held beginning in late August or early September. Please check the website.

All girls and boys, ages eight and older, can participate in our Cross Country season. We anticipate conducting the cross country season at the Bethel Park Recreation Center located on Park Avenue. Please check our website for details. Practices are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings with meets on Saturday and Sunday mornings. No experience is needed. A well-fitting pair of RUNNING shoes is necessary. Ages: 8 years and over.

**Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday Time: 6 - 7:30 p.m.**

**Location: Bethel Park Recreation Center**

Call **Damon Rhodes** at 412-475-7206 or **Steve Meddings** at 724-301-8101 for further information.

Check our website for fees and other information: [www.pacertrackclub.com](http://www.pacertrackclub.com)

### Tennis

Lessons and clinics are available for ages 3 to adult. Call to register and direct questions to 412-831-2630 or

Email: [tennis@usctdp.com](mailto:tennis@usctdp.com)

Location: USC Tennis Center

### Bethel Park Baseball

Bethel Park Baseball (BPB) is offering fall recreation baseball for the 2023 season. While fall registration was complete July 31, you can still visit the new Bethel Park Baseball website at <http://www.bethelparkbaseball.org> or our Facebook page at Bethel Park Baseball for additional information.

We thank the community in advance for all your support, and we will see you on the diamond!



## COACHES AND VOLUNTEERS NEED CLEARANCES!



**Interested in Coaching?**  
(basketball, flag football)

**Interested in Volunteering as a Chaperone?**  
(NAMS Jam)

Pennsylvania state law requires all individuals who have direct contact with children to have three clearances - the Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance, Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Record Check, and the FBI Federal Criminal History Record. The clearances take approximately two to three weeks for processing.

**Contact the Recreation Department** about getting your clearances. You will not be able to coach or volunteer without them! [cstover@bethelpark.net](mailto:cstover@bethelpark.net) or 412-831-6800, x230.



# YOUTH PROGRAMS

## CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

### DRIVER EDUCATION

The course is conducted by Kennedy School of Driving through Bethel Park Recreation. Upon successful completion of the 30 hours of theory and 6 hours of in-car training, a certificate is given that is accepted by most insurance companies for an insurance rate discount. If you are a BPHS student, this class features the option of taking your driving test with our instructor. This counts as 1 hour of your behind-the-wheel instruction. You must complete the test prior to your high school graduation in order to take the test with our instructor.

The \$45 (non-resident \$50) **NON-REFUNDABLE AND NON-TRANSFERRABLE** fee payable to Bethel Park Recreation will secure your space in the class. The fee of \$605.00 must be paid to Kennedy School of Driving on the first night of class. Class size is limited to 36 students.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 15 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$45.00** Non-Res Fee: \$50.00  
**To Kennedy: \$605.00**

10 session dates

3300.300  
 Dates: 09/12/2023 - 10/12/2023 Tue, Thu  
 Time: 5:00PM - 8:00PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**

### YOUTH THEATER

Calling beginners and experienced young actors come to the stage immediately for this theater class. Students will enjoy playing creative improve drama games to develop characters and improve skills as well as work on voice projection and enunciation. Theater terms and staging will be a part of the class. Students will perfect those skills in short skits and a play that they will rehearse and perform at the end of the classes. That performance will be held on the last day of class for family and friends.

Instructor: Adam Winter

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 6 - 12  
**Resident Fee: \$45.00** Non-Res Fee: \$50.00

6 session dates

3835.300  
 Dates: 09/06/2023 - 10/11/2023 Wed  
 Time: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

3835.310  
 Dates: 10/25/2023 - 12/13/2023 Wed  
 Time: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**  
**No Class: Nov 22 & Dec 6**

## ARTS & CRAFTS

### CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY ART WORKSHOP

In this fun four-week session children will get creative while celebrating this enjoyable season. We'll create a turkey picture inspired by Charlie Harper and a fun seasonal collage of snow people. We'll learn about artist Bob Ross and create a winter forest complete with happy trees and sparkling highlights. All materials are included, some of the ones we will use are paint, markers, colored pencils, and model magic. Children will take home a finished project after every class. Come join us as we have fun creating and using our imagination with art.

Instructor: Sue Ralston

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 4 - 7  
**Resident Fee: \$45.00** Non-Res Fee: \$50.00

4 session dates

3805.310  
 Dates: 11/06/2023 - 11/27/2023 Mon  
 Time: 5:15PM - 6:15PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**

### CREATIVE HOLIDAY ART WORKSHOP

Children will have fun getting creative and celebrating the season with art. We'll learn about artist Bob Ross letting him inspire our painted winter forest filled with sparkling happy trees. Children will create a snowman collage. We'll learn about artist Charlie Harper and his use of geometric shapes incorporating his style into our seasonal turkey picture. Children will use a variety of materials like tempera paint, watercolors, markers, colored pencils, model magic to name a few and all are included. A completed piece of artwork will be taken home after each class. Come join us as we have fun getting creative, using our imagination with art.

Instructor: Sue Ralston

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 6 - 12  
**Resident Fee: \$45.00** Non-Res Fee: \$50.00

4 session dates

3805.311  
 Dates: 11/06/2023 - 11/27/2023 Mon  
 Time: 6:30PM - 7:30PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**

### LOOK AT THE BEAUTIFUL COLORS

In this fun six week session children will celebrate the season of fall, letting it inspire their artwork. We'll have fun collecting leaves, painting them, doing leaf rubbings, and incorporating all of that into our leaf collage. We'll learn about the artist Gustav Klimt and let his artwork inspire our beautiful golden tree painting. Children will use a variety of materials, paint, markers, colored pencils, crayons, model magic to name a few and all are included. After each class children will take home a finished piece of artwork. Come join us as we have fun exploring this amazing season using our imagination and creativity through the wonderful world of art.

Instructor: Sue Ralston

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 4 - 7  
**Resident Fee: \$65.00** Non-Res Fee: \$70.00

6 session dates

3805.300  
 Dates: 09/11/2023 - 10/16/2023 Mon  
 Time: 5:15PM - 6:15PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**

### CELEBRATING THE COLORS OF FALL THROUGH ART

In this fun six week session, children will explore color and celebrate the season of fall with art. We'll learn about artists like Gustav Klimt and Laura Iverson, letting her picture Three Black Cats Under A Full Moon inspire our fall moonlit cat artwork. Children will have fun painting golden trees, using paint to color match leaves we found, do leaf rubbings and creating a leaf collage. We'll use a variety of materials like tempera paint, watercolors, colored pencils, markers, model magic to name a few, all are included, and a completed piece of artwork will be taken home after every class. Come join us as we have fun celebrating this amazing season using our imagination and creativity through the wonderful world of art.

Instructor: Sue Ralston

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 6 - 12  
**Resident Fee: \$65.00** Non-Res Fee: \$70.00

6 session dates

3805.301  
 Dates: 09/11/2023 - 10/16/2023 Mon  
 Time: 6:30PM - 7:30PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**

### CANVAS CRAZINESS

Thursdays from 6:10PM - 7:10PM

Students will start and complete their own canvas with different themes each session. DRESS TO GET MESSY! Must register at least 24 hours prior to class.

Instructor: Karen Hartman

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 6 - 14  
**Resident Fee: \$30.00** Non-Res Fee: \$35.00

1 session date

3805.302

**Monet's Lily Pond with Cute Pond Creatures**  
 Dates: 09/07/2023 Thu

**Silly Scarecrows and Emoji Pumpkins**  
 Dates: 09/21/2023 Thu

**Frankenstein, Dracula, and Witch Halloween Party**  
 Dates: 10/12/2023 Thu

**Happy Halloween Haunted House**  
 Dates: 10/26/2023 Thu

**Name your Turkey and his Fall Animal Friends**  
 Dates: 11/09/2023 Thu

**Create a Festive Gingerbread House Drawing/Painting**  
 Dates: 11/30/2023 Thu

**Festive Holiday Tree with Lots of Embellishments**  
 Dates: 12/14/2023 Thu

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**

### CARTOONING WORKSHOP

Thursdays from 7:15PM - 8:15PM

Cartooning/drawing classes with a new fun theme for each class! Students will learn the foundation of cartooning in this very fun, relaxed class atmosphere. Students and instructor tell jokes, stories and share their creations. Students end class with 4 fun drawings/cartoons complete with speech bubbles. Bring your imagination for lots of fun! Must register at least 24 hours prior to class.

Instructor: Karen Hartman

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 6 - 14  
**Resident Fee: \$25.00** Non-Res Fee: \$30.00

1 session date

3805.303

**Monet's Lily Pond with Cute Pond Creatures**  
 Dates: 09/07/2023 Thu

**Silly Scarecrows and Emoji Pumpkins**  
 Dates: 09/21/2023 Thu

**Frankenstein, Dracula, and Witch Halloween Party**  
 Dates: 10/12/2023 Thu

**Happy Halloween Haunted House**  
 Dates: 10/26/2023 Thu

**Name your Turkey and his Fall Animal Friends**  
 Dates: 11/09/2023 Thu

**Create a Festive Gingerbread House Drawing/Painting**  
 Dates: 11/30/2023 Thu

**Festive Holiday Tree with Lots of Embellishments**  
 Dates: 12/14/2023 Thu

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**

SATURDAY CLASSES ARE HIGHLIGHTED

**PRIVATE/SEMI-PRIVATE DRAWING CLASS****Thursdays from 4:00PM – 5:00PM or 5:00PM – 6:00PM**

Cartooning/drawing classes with a new fun theme for each class! Students will learn the foundation of cartooning in this very fun, relaxed class atmosphere. Students and instructor tell jokes, stories and share their creations. Students end class with 4 fun drawings/cartoons complete with speech bubbles. Bring your imagination for lots of fun! Must register at least 24 hours prior to class.

Instructor: Karen Hartman

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 6 – 16

**Resident Fee: \$25.00** Non-Res Fee: \$30.00  
1 session date

3805.304/3805.305

Dates: 09/07/2023 Thu

Dates: 09/21/2023 Thu

Dates: 10/12/2023 Thu

Dates: 10/26/2023 Thu

Dates: 11/09/2023 Thu

Dates: 11/30/2023 Thu

Dates: 12/14/2023 Thu

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center****DANCE****BALLET / TAP COMBO**

This class will serve as an intro to ballet and tap, while incorporating other fun dance/movement techniques that will enhance balance, body control and the natural sense of rhythm. Simple ballet and tap movements will be introduced and proper stretching (*set to song and nursery rhymes*) will be taught. This is a very informal & fun approach to beginning dance. Standard dance attire, (*leotard or tank top with tights*) or stretchy, tight (*fitness/dance*) shorts worn over tights. Tap or Ballet shoes are preferred

Instructor: Tammy Lentz

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 3 - 5

**Resident Fee: \$40.00** Non-Res Fee: \$45.00  
6 session dates3810.321  
Dates: 09/05/2023 - 10/10/2023 Tue  
Time: 9:45AM - 10:30AM3810.322  
Dates: 09/05/2023 - 10/10/2023 Tue  
Time: 4:30PM - 5:15PM3810.331  
Dates: 10/17/2023 - 11/28/2023 Tue  
Time: 9:45AM - 10:30AM3810.332  
Dates: 10/17/2023 - 11/28/2023 Tue  
Time: 4:30PM - 5:15PM**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**  
**No Class: Oct 31**

You can register online for most  
Recreation programs!  
[www.bethelpark.net](http://www.bethelpark.net)

**JAZZ/HIP HOP COMBO**

This one-hour class allows students to learn and enjoy fundamental dance styles. Class allows students to explore leaping and turning with jazz and learn some street funk with hip hop. The high energy class is a solid foundation of dance and sure to be a favorite. Students should have Jazz shoes (*preferred but not required*) or sneakers for class. Please wear comfortable clothing. Please contact the instructor, Tammy Lentz at **412-851-9142** if you have any questions about the class or where to purchase shoes.

Ages: 5 - 12

**Resident Fee: \$40.00** Non-Res Fee: \$45.00  
6 session dates3810.325  
Dates: 09/05/2023 - 10/10/2023 Tue  
Time: 6:45PM - 7:30PM3810.335  
Dates: 10/17/2023 - 11/28/2023 Tue  
Time: 6:45PM - 7:30PM**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**  
**No Class: Oct 31****MOVE AND GROOVE WITH 2'S**

Help your child discover movement and expression while networking with other parents through a structure that blends dance, music, and imagination. Parent and child will follow along with the instructor who will guide the parent/tot team in a way that makes discovering movement, balance, and listening skills easy and fun. This class is an excellent first group activity. Please wear comfortable clothing.

Instructor: Tammy Lentz

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 16 months - 3 years

**Resident Fee: \$35.00** Non-Res Fee: \$40.00  
6 session dates3810.320  
Dates: 09/05/2023 - 10/10/2023 Tue  
Time: 10:45AM - 11:15AM3810.330  
Dates: 10/17/2023 - 11/28/2023 Tue  
Time: 10:45AM - 11:15AM**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**  
**No Class: Oct 31****BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE BATON**

This is a fun-filled class for the beginner twirler and intermediate twirler. Class is a low cost, no pressure introduction for the first-time twirlers who want to get their first taste of baton. Students will learn basic twirls and tosses and will also have fun learning how to march and twirl to music. Students that have already completed the beginner class will continue to build knowledge and baton twirling skills. They will learn more difficult tricks and tosses, using skills previously learned in class. Twirling promotes development of good hand/eye coordination. This class is a great start for any future little majorette. Students should wear comfortable clothing and must have their own baton. Please contact the instructor, Tammy Lentz, at **412-851-9142** if you have questions about the class or where to purchase a baton.

Tammy is a former Upper St. Clair Majorette with over 30 years of teaching experience training girls to be majorettes throughout the many high schools in the South Hills areas and is currently the majorette/auxiliary instructor at Upper St. Clair High School.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 5 - 18

**Resident Fee: \$40.00** Non-Res Fee: \$45.00  
6 session dates3810.323  
Dates: 09/05/2023 - 10/10/2023 Tue  
Time: 6:00PM - 6:45PM3810.333  
Dates: 10/17/2023 - 11/28/2023 Tue  
Time: 6:00PM - 6:45PM**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**  
**No Class: Oct 31****ADVANCED BATON TWIRLING**

This class is for twirlers who have had beginner and/or intermediate instruction or by instructor recommendation. Students will focus on 2 baton tricks, exchanges, and ribbon instruction. This class is for girls who are headed in the direction of becoming a High School Majorette. Students do not need to purchase a second baton or ribbon. The instructor will provide additional batons and ribbons. Tammy is a former Upper St. Clair Majorette with over 30 years of teaching experience training girls to be majorettes throughout the many high schools in the South Hills areas and is currently the majorette/auxiliary instructor at Upper St. Clair High School.

Instructor: Tammy Lentz

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 8 - 18

**Resident Fee: \$40.00** Non-Res Fee: \$45.00  
6 session dates3810.324  
Dates: 09/05/2023 - 10/10/2023 Tue  
Time: 5:15PM - 6:00PM3810.334  
Dates: 10/17/2023 - 11/28/2023 Tue  
Time: 5:15PM - 6:00PM**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**  
**No Class: Oct 31****SOUTH HILLS STARS SPECIAL NEEDS COLOR GUARD**

The South Hills Stars Color Guard was created in the Spring of 2022. It is open for anyone to join no matter what abilities you may have. Learn to spin flags, use swing flags, twirl ribbons, dance with pom-poms and hoops, and show off your talents when we perform as a group. We participate in Bethel Park events as well as other performances around the Pittsburgh area. It is a great opportunity to become a Star! We are also looking for volunteers. We cannot wait for you to join us this season!

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 10 and over

**Resident Fee: \$50.00** Non-Res Fee: \$55.00  
14 session dates3810.300  
Dates: 08/21/2023 - 12/04/2023 Mon  
Time: 6:00PM - 7:00PM**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**  
**No Class: Sep 4 & Oct 23****PASSION RECREATION COMBO BATON AND POM**

Poms-Non cheer team performance with instruction on how to use poms with precision and grace, combining the changing of floor patterns, group design, and dance steps. Poms will be provided. Twirl-Beginner/Intermediate skill-based instruction combining the sport and art of standard body moves and baton handling techniques. Please dress comfortably, in tennis shoes, and bring your own baton.

Contact us for more information and questions at [tomlinst1@hotmail.com](mailto:tomlinst1@hotmail.com) or [annietwirl@gmail.com](mailto:annietwirl@gmail.com).

Ages: 4 - 12

**Resident Fee: \$45.00** Non-Res Fee: \$50.00  
6 session dates3810.301  
Dates: 09/13/2023 - 10/18/2023 Wed  
Time: 6:15PM - 7:00PM3810.311  
Dates: 11/01/2023 - 12/13/2023 Wed  
Time: 6:15PM - 7:00PM**Location: Ben Franklin Elementary**  
**No Class: Nov 22****SATURDAY CLASSES ARE HIGHLIGHTED**

## FITNESS & EXERCISE

### FIT KIDS

Ignore the cold weather outside and come inside to play! Make new friends while playing fun games, running races, bouncing, skipping, hopping, and jumping away. Play and laugh our way to being a fit kid!

Instructor: Cortney Sweeney

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 5 - 8

**Resident Fee: \$30.00** Non-Res Fee: \$35.00  
6 session dates

3820.300

Dates: 09/11/2023 - 10/23/2023 Mon  
Time: 6:00PM - 6:45PM

3820.310

Dates: 10/30/2023 - 12/04/2023 Mon  
Time: 6:00PM - 6:45PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**

### CHILDRENS BEGINNER KARATE - TANG SOO DO

Students will learn Tang Soo Do, the traditional Korean martial art from instructors with CS Kim Karate. Instructors will teach students the basics of martial arts while also incorporating important life skills. Balance, flexibility and overall improved physical fitness will be cornerstones as well as building confidence, concentration, discipline and respect.

\* Uniform fee of \$35 due to instructor at first class\*

Instructor: Master Bruno/C.S. Kim Karate Instructor

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 6 - 18

**Resident Fee: \$50.00** Non-Res Fee: \$55.00  
6 session dates

3820.301

Dates: 09/05/2023 - 10/10/2023 Tue  
Time: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

3820.311

Dates: 10/24/2023 - 12/05/2023 Tue  
Time: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**  
**No Class: Nov 21**

## SPORTS

### GIRLS' YOUTH BASKETBALL

**REGISTER NOW! TEAMS FILL UP! DON'T GET SHUT OUT!**  
REGISTER BY Tuesday, Oct. 31 for EARLY BIRD rate!  
Rate increases to \$90 on Nov. 1; non-residents must add \$5 to required fee. Absolutely NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE accepted after Dec. 1.

Fee covers practice, instruction, games, and T-shirt.

\*Indicate ADULT T-SHIRT SIZE.

SKILLS and DRILLS is an EVALUATION SESSION that all registered participants should attend at the Community Center, date and time to be determined.

COACHES WILL NOTIFY PARENTS FOR INDIVIDUAL TEAM PRACTICE DAYS. Practices will start in January. Games to begin Sunday, Jan. 28 - Sunday, March 24, 2024. Game times to be determined between 12-3 p.m.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

\*Coaches' Kids Play For FREE\*

Early Bird Resident Fee: \$70.00

Early Bird Non-Res Fee: \$75.00

**Resident Fee: \$90.00** Non-Res Fee: \$95.00  
9 session dates

3815.320

Grades: 2-4  
Dates: 01/28/2024 - 03/24/2024 Sun

3815.321

Grades: 5-8  
Dates: 01/28/2024 - 03/24/2024 Sun

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**

### BOYS' YOUTH BASKETBALL

**REGISTER NOW! TEAMS FILL UP! DON'T GET SHUT OUT!**

REGISTER BY Tuesday Oct. 31 for EARLY BIRD rate!  
Rate increases to \$90 on Nov. 1; non-residents must add \$5 to required fee.

Absolutely NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE accepted after Dec. 1.

Fee covers practice, instruction, games, and T-shirt.

\*Indicate ADULT T-SHIRT SIZE.

SKILLS and DRILLS is an EVALUATION SESSION that all registered participants should attend at the Community Center, date and time to be determined.

COACHES WILL NOTIFY PARENTS FOR INDIVIDUAL TEAM PRACTICE DAYS. Practices will start in January.

Games to begin Saturday, Jan. 27 - March 23, 2024  
Game times to be determined between 9:00AM-4:00PM.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

\*Coaches' Kids Play For FREE\*

Early Bird Resident Fee: \$70.00

Early Bird Non-Res Fee: \$75.00

**Resident Fee: \$90.00** Non-Res Fee: \$95.00  
9 session dates

3815.322

Grades: 2-4  
Dates: 01/27/2024 - 03/23/2024 Sat

3815.323

Grades: 5-6  
Dates: 01/27/2024 - 03/23/2024 Sat

3815.324

Grades: 7-8  
Dates: 01/27/2024 - 03/23/2024 Sat

3815.325

Grades: 9-12  
Dates: 01/27/2024 - 03/23/2024 Sat

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**

### JUNIOR HOOPS GIRLS

Creative and fun drills are used to help teach the children in Grade 1 the basic concepts of dribbling, passing, shooting, rebounding, offense and defense for the first half of each session. The second half the children will be divided into teams to apply what they have learned in a teaching game style. Parents are welcome and encouraged to help with the drills and games. A T-Shirt is included.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Grade: K-2

**Resident Fee: \$55.00** Non-Res Fee: \$60.00  
8 session dates

3815.301

Dates: 01/05/2024 - 03/01/2024 Fri  
Time: 6:30PM - 7:30PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**  
**No Class: Feb 9**

### JUNIOR HOOPS BOYS

Creative and fun drills are used to help teach the children in Grade 2 the basic concepts of dribbling, passing, shooting, rebounding, offense and defense for the first half of each session. The second half the children will be divided into teams to apply what they have learned in a teaching game style. Parents are welcome and encouraged to help with the drills and games. A T-Shirt is included.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Grade: K-2

**Resident Fee: \$55.00** Non-Res Fee: \$60.00  
8 session dates

3815.302

Dates: 01/05/2024 - 03/01/2024 Fri  
Time: 7:30PM - 8:30PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**  
**No Class: Feb 9**

### YOUTH CO-ED VOLLEYBALL

Come learn the fundamentals of volleyball! Girls and boys in grades 4-6 will learn the basic skills including passing, setting, serving, hitting, and rotation as well as the gross motor skills associated with the sport, such as jumping, footwork, and hand-eye coordination. The skills will be introduced through a variety of games and drills. No prior experience needed. Emily Sarneso is a former college volleyball player and club volleyball coach.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Grades: 4 - 6

**Resident Fee: \$80.00** Non-Res Fee: \$85.00  
6 session dates

3815.306

Dates: 10/25/2023 - 12/06/2023 Wed  
Time: 6:00PM - 7:30PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**  
**No Class: Nov 22**

### AMAZING ATHLETES JUMPBUNCH - TODDLER

Amazing Athletes JumpBunch encourages physical activity through play, exploration and movement. Our movement-based curriculum is specially designed to help build self-confidence while developing fine and gross motor skills, hand-eye coordination, balance & more! Amazing Athletes JumpBunch provides your toddler the opportunity to explore a wide range of age appropriate sports equipment, while also reinforcing the basics like colors, shapes, animals, counting and more! Amazing Athletes JumpBunch is the ideal way to start your child on the path to a healthy and happy life! (ages 18 months - 3 years)

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 18 months - 3 years

**Resident Fee: \$85.00** Non-Res Fee: \$90.00  
6 session dates

3815.307

Dates: 09/09/2023 - 10/14/2023 Sat  
Time: 9:30AM - 10:00AM

3815.317

Dates: 10/28/2023 - 12/09/2023 Sat  
Time: 9:30AM - 10:00AM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**  
**No Class: Nov 25**

### AMAZING ATHLETES JUMPBUNCH - PRE-K

Sports, smiles, fitness, and fun! Young athletes are introduced to a variety of activities - from popular sports such as volleyball, hockey, basketball, and lacrosse to fun fitness activities such as parachute, fancy footwork, and obstacle courses. Come see what being fit and having fun is all about!

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 3-5

**Resident Fee: \$85.00** Non-Res Fee: \$90.00  
6 session dates

3815.308

Dates: 09/06/2023 - 10/11/2023 Wed  
Time: 4:30PM - 5:15PM

3815.318

Dates: 10/25/2023 - 12/06/2023 Wed  
Time: 4:30PM - 5:15PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**  
**No Class: Nov 22**

## SATURDAY CLASSES ARE HIGHLIGHTED

### PLEASE REGISTER IN ADVANCE!

Register at least 24-hours in advance of program start! Programs not meeting the minimum number of students will be canceled. Online registrations are highly encouraged at [www.bethelpark.net](http://www.bethelpark.net)

**AMAZING ATHLETES P.E. – SCHOOL AGE**

For school age athletes, Amazing Athletes P.E. is a progressive skill-based sports program that uniquely combines team-based fitness challenges and strength training, making building muscle fun with partner-based exercises and age-appropriate weights. Each week, students focus on one of twelve sports, learning skills and practicing with game play. (ages 5-9)

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 5-9  
**Resident Fee: \$95.00** Non-Res Fee: \$100.00  
 6 session dates

3815.309  
 Dates: 09/06/2023 - 10/11/2023 Wed  
 Time: 5:30PM - 6:00PM

3815.319  
 Dates: 10/25/2023 - 12/06/2023 Wed  
 Time: 5:30PM - 6:30PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**  
**No Class: Nov 22**

**FLAG FOOTBALL**

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS Friday, September 8! NO EXCEPTIONS. Girls and boys, ages 6 - 11, may register for a 6-week session of RECREATION FLAG FOOTBALL! Children will be placed on teams according to age. Each team will play one game per week on Sunday evening. A mouthguard is required.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 6 - 11  
**Resident Fee: \$60.00** Non-Res Fee: \$65.00  
 6 session dates

3815.300  
 Dates: 09/17/2023 - 10/22/2023 Sun  
 Time: 6:00PM - 9:00PM

**Location: Bethel Park High School**

★ NEW! NEW! NEW! ★

**MIGHTY THREE SOCCER**

Children will learn the skills, moves, rules, and joy of playing America's most popular youth sport! Mighty Kicks is designed to encourage young children to build a healthy lifestyle, and offers a high-energy, fun program helping children develop coordination and confidence and utilize their physical energy in a positive way. Coach Sam Bellin is a former standout college soccer player at the University of Georgia and currently highly successful Head Coach of Allderdice Boys High School soccer. Here are some highlights of the program:

**CURRICULUM** – Mighty Kicks Pittsburgh serves over 1000 children yearly in over 20 locations using an age-appropriate methodology including games, drills, exercises, stories with pictures and more!

**COACHING** – All of your classes will be led by Coach Sam, well-respected and much-liked for his 20+ years of relentlessly positive, high-energy, child-centered and expert sports coaching. Coach Sam is well known for combining top notch sports instruction with a fun program that helps children develop character and confidence on and off the field.

More information is available at [www.mightykickspittsburgh.net](http://www.mightykickspittsburgh.net). No equipment of any kind is required. Just sign up and play.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 3  
**Resident Fee: \$65.00** Non-Res Fee: \$70.00  
 6 session dates

3815.326  
 Dates: 09/15/2023 - 10/20/2023 Fri  
 Time: 10:00AM - 10:30AM

3815.328  
 Dates: 11/03/2023 - 12/15/2023 Fri  
 Time: 10:45AM - 10:30AM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**  
**No Class: Nov 24**

**MIGHTY KICKS SOCCER**

Children will learn the skills, moves, rules, and joy of playing America's most popular youth sport, with extra focus on developing proper technique, playing competitive games, and learning to be a good team player! Mighty Kicks is designed to encourage young children to build a healthy lifestyle, and offers a high-energy, fun program helping children develop coordination and confidence and utilize their physical energy in a positive way. Coach Sam Bellin is a former standout college

soccer player at the University of Georgia and currently highly successful Head Coach of Allderdice Boys High School soccer.

Here are some highlights of the program:

**CURRICULUM** – Mighty Kicks Pittsburgh serves over 1000 children yearly in over 20 locations using an age-appropriate methodology including games, drills, exercises, stories with pictures and more!

**COACHING** – All of your classes will be led by Coach Sam, well-respected and much-liked for his 20+ years of relentlessly positive, high-energy, child-centered and expert sports coaching. Coach Sam is well known for combining top notch sports instruction with a fun program that helps children develop character and confidence on and off the field.

More information is available at [www.mightykickspittsburgh.net](http://www.mightykickspittsburgh.net). No equipment of any kind is required. Just sign up and play.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 4-6  
**Resident Fee: \$65.00** Non-Res Fee: \$75.00  
 6 session dates

3815.327  
 Dates: 09/15/2023 - 10/20/2023 Fri  
 Time: 10:00AM - 10:45AM

3815.329  
 Dates: 11/03/2023 - 12/15/2023 Fri  
 Time: 10:00AM - 10:45AM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**  
**No Class: Nov 24**

**MIGHTY KICKS SOCCER-PM**

Children will learn the skills, moves, rules, and joy of playing America's most popular youth sport! Mighty Kicks is designed to encourage young children to build a healthy lifestyle, and offers a high-energy, fun program helping children develop coordination and confidence and utilize their physical energy in a positive way. No equipment of any kind is required. Just sign up and play Here are some highlights of the program:

**Curriculum** – Mighty Kicks serves over 4000 children yearly using an age-appropriate methodology including games, drills, exercises, stories with pictures and more!

**Coaching** – All classes will be led by Coach Sam, highly successful Head Coach of Allderdice High School Boys' Soccer Team with 20+ years of experience coaching youth sports. Coach Sam is well known for combining top notch sports instruction with a fun program that helps children develop character and confidence on and off the field.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 5-10  
**Resident Fee: \$65.00** Non-Res Fee: \$70.00  
 6 session dates

3815.332  
 Dates: 11/07/2023 - 12/12/2023 Tue  
 Time: 5:00PM - 6:00PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**

*You can register online for  
 most Recreation programs!  
 Visit  
[www.bethelpark.net](http://www.bethelpark.net)*

**MIGHTY KICKS SOCCER - OUTDOORS!**

Children will learn the skills, moves, rules, and joy of playing America's most popular youth sport! Mighty Kicks is designed to encourage young children to build a healthy lifestyle, and offers a high-energy, fun program helping children develop coordination and confidence and utilize their physical energy in a positive way. No equipment of any kind is required. Just sign up and play

**COACHING** – All of your classes will be led by Coach Sam, well-respected for his 20+ years of relentlessly positive, high-energy, child-centered, and expert sports coaching. Coach Sam is well known for combining top notch sports instruction with a fun program that helps children develop character and confidence on and off the field.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

**Resident Fee: \$75.00** Non-Res Fee: \$80.00  
 6 session dates

3815.330  
 Ages: 3 - 4  
 Dates: 09/17/2023 - 10/22/2023 Sun  
 Time: 12:00PM - 12:45PM

3815.331  
 Ages: 5 - 8  
 Dates: 09/17/2023 - 10/22/2023 Sun  
 Time: 1:00PM - 2:00PM

**Location: Village Green Park**

**BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE FOIL FENCING**

Experience and enjoy the fun and challenging Olympic sport of foil fencing. The introductory and intermediate level instruction progressively establishes fundamental skills needed for successful fencing and great fitness. Sessions include instruction and practice bouts.

Note: All essential equipment will be provided by the instructors. Students will be required to wear comfortable pants and non-marking athletic shoes. Shorts or jeans are not permitted.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 7 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$57.00** Non-Res Fee: \$62.00  
 6 session dates

3815.310  
 Dates: 09/07/2023 - 10/12/2023 Thu  
 Time: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

3815.312  
 Dates: 10/26/2023 - 12/07/2023 Thu  
 Time: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**  
**No Class: Nov 23**

**ADVANCED FOIL FENCING**

Take your fencing to a new level! This instructional class focuses on techniques, fitness, and a winning strategy to help the dedicated fencer succeed at an advanced competitive level in this martial art. Sessions include instruction and practice bouts. Prerequisites include a minimum of 1 year of fencing experience and approval of the instructors. Note: All essential equipment will be provided by the instructors - students will be required to wear comfortable pants, non-marking athletic shoes. Shorts or jeans are not permitted.

\*Register for additional Monday Bouting Practice for extra practice and take your fencing skills to a higher level.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 11 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$80.00** Non-Res Fee: \$85.00  
 6 session dates

3815.311  
 Dates: 09/07/2023 - 10/12/2023 Thu  
 Time: 7:00PM - 9:00PM

3815.313  
 Dates: 10/26/2023 - 12/07/2023 Thu  
 Time: 7:00PM - 9:00PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**  
**No Class: Nov 23**

### FENCING - BOUTING PRACTICE

Prerequisite: Open only to students enrolled in Advanced Fencing class. Looking for some extra practice time. This night is an extra night for open bouting. This is for fencers who need more practice time to hone their skills and practice what they have learned in class and/or in their lessons. Only available to students in the Advanced Fencing class to get more fencing time during the week. A coach will be present to supervise and help direct and critique, but this is about getting in as much bouting time as possible. Expect stretching and a formal warm up to begin the class followed by open bouting for the remainder of the time.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*  
 Ages: 11 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$45.00** Non-Res Fee: \$50.00  
 6 session dates

3815.303  
 Dates: 09/11/2023 - 10/16/2023 Mon  
 Time: 7:00PM - 8:30PM

3815.304  
 Dates: 10/30/2023 - 12/04/2023 Mon  
 Time: 7:00PM - 8:30PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**

### FENCING - PRIVATE LESSONS

Sign up for an in-depth training lesson to practice specific techniques, tactics for competition, training regimens, and to push your form and skills farther than before. Each lesson is for 20 minutes, between 12:30-1:40 p.m., be prepared to work hard during that time. Fencers need to have their own gear and be ready to go at the start of lesson time, there will not be a formal warm up like there is with the fencing class. Multiple blocks can be reserved if you like or just one lesson as needed. The focus of these lessons is to mesh between what the fencer wants to work on and improve as well as what the coach feels is necessary to increase the fencer's skills. Register online at [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) to schedule your specific time. 12:30 p.m., 12:55 p.m., or 1:20 p.m.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*  
 Ages: 11 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$35.00** Non-Res Fee: \$40.00  
 1 session dates

3815.314/3815.315/3815.316  
 Dates: 09/09/2023 Sat

Dates: 09/16/2023 Sat

Dates: 09/23/2023 Sat

Dates: 09/30/2023 Sat

Dates: 10/07/2023 Sat

Dates: 10/14/2023 Sat

Dates: 10/28/2023 Sat

Dates: 11/04/2023 Sat

Dates: 11/11/2023 Sat

Dates: 11/18/2023 Sat

Dates: 12/02/2023 Sat

Dates: 12/09/2023 Sat

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**  
**No Class: Nov 25**

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### HALLOWEEN FUN

Children in grades K-4 will enjoy Halloween crafts, movies, snacks, games, and of course....TREATS! This event will be held at the Bethel Park Community Center. Space is limited so register early. You must register by Wednesday, Oct. 11. Costumes are optional.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*  
 Ages: 5 - 11  
**Resident Fee: \$25.00** Non-Res Fee: \$30.00  
 1 session date

3835.320  
 Dates: 10/14/2023 Sat  
 Time: 10:00AM - 12:00PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**

### HOLIDAY WORKSHOP

Bethel Park Recreation is offering a FUN holiday workshop for boys and girls in grades K through 4 at the Community Center. Come join us for holiday crafts, games, movies, and snacks. You must register by Wednesday, Nov. 29. PARENTS: This provides a great chance for you to get some last-minute holiday shopping done without the kids! Space is Limited!

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*  
 Ages: 5 - 11  
**Resident Fee: \$30.00** Non-Res Fee: \$35.00  
 1 session date

3835.321  
 Dates: 12/02/2023 Sat  
 Time: 1:00PM - 3:00PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**

The Award Winning Bethel Park High School "Black Hawk" Marching Band, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Jazz Ensemble, Chamber Orchestra, String Orchestra, Top 21 and Music Boosters would like to say "THANK YOU"

to the Community for your continued support of our hoagie sales. The Music Department is planning to travel in the Spring of 2024!



The tentative dates for hoagie sales this year are Saturdays:

- Sept. 30
- Nov. 18
- Jan. 20
- March 2
- April 13

Stay up-to-date and bookmark our Music Department website - [bpsdmusic.weebly.com](http://bpsdmusic.weebly.com) and the Music Booster website - [bpmusicboosters.com](http://bpmusicboosters.com)

The Annual Bethel Park Band Festival will be held on Saturday, Oct. 7th @ 7 p.m. in the BPHS Black Hawk Stadium.

## CC Clubhouse (Formerly NAMS Jam)

\*\*\* NEW LOCATION now being hosted at The Bethel Park Community Center\*\*\*  
 5151 Park Avenue

CC Clubhouse provides a fun, safe and supervised "night out" for any 5th and 6th grade resident of Bethel Park. Activities at each CC Clubhouse include the following: basketball, crafts, movies, games, and a snack bar (additional fees). "Extra" activities are featured on a rotating basis throughout the year. They may include: Inflatables, airbrush tattoos, video gaming, karaoke, balloon artists, sport competitions, GIANT Twister, volleyball, and much, much more! There is something for EVERYONE and each event is UNIQUE!

DATE	
October	13
December	8
February	9
April	26



#### FEATURED ACTIVITIES

- Halloween Fun!**  
 Halloween Movie Feature, Costume Contest, GHOST Bingo, Pumpkin Decorating, Inflatable, Craft, Games
- Happy Holidays!**  
 Winter Crafts & Entertainment
- Happy Valentines Day!**  
 April Showers!



CC Clubhouse admission is \$5 per student, payable at the door. Doors DO NOT open until 7:00 pm and no student is permitted to leave before 9:00 pm unless accompanied by a parent or guardian. **Please note that these events end PROMPTLY at 9:00pm.**

Chaperones\* are ALWAYS needed for each CC Clubhouse. Please contact CC Clubhouse, at 412-831-6800, x127 to volunteer or for additional information. Leave your name and telephone number if you wish to chaperone.

- The Recreation Department MUST have a copy of your up-to-date clearances on file before you can volunteer at a CC Clubhouse event. We have to keep our own record of clearances, therefore, your school issued ID will not work at CC Clubhouse events.

Grades: 5 & 6 Open to all **Bethel Park 5th & 6th Graders**  
**Resident Fee: \$5.00**

CC Clubhouse Dates:	
October	13
December	08
February	09
April	26

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**

You can register online for most Recreation programs!  
[www.bethelpark.net](http://www.bethelpark.net)

SATURDAY CLASSES ARE HIGHLIGHTED

# Gold Card Club

**DUES: \$6.00**  
**AGES: 60YRS AND OVER**

Gold Card Club meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at the Bethel Park Community Center.

Sign-in begins at 12:30 p.m. with the meeting starting at 1 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact **Cindy Carfagno** at 412-831-1913 or [t2323@comcast.net](mailto:t2323@comcast.net).

The Gold Card Club, a social and fellowship organization for seniors, was organized by the *Bethel Park Recreation Department* for the benefit of Bethel Park residents who are 60 years of age and over, or a resident on disability retirement and not less than 50 years of age. A spouse not less than 55 years of age may join with his/her spouse if he/she meets the 60-year age minimum. The title of the GOLD CARD CLUB came from the color of the membership card, not for playing card games.

Annual membership dues are \$6 per person per calendar year, Jan. 1 - Dec. 31. Annual dues shall be paid beginning at the January general meeting. Renewals paid after March 31 incur a late penalty. New members will be accepted at any time during the calendar year. You MUST be a current Bethel Park resident in order to join the Gold Card Club.

Monthly meetings are normally held at the Bethel Park Community Center on the second Thursday of each month (*except July and August*) at 1 p.m. Sign-in begins at 12:30 p.m. After a brief meeting, enjoy excellent entertainment, light refreshments and several games of bingo. We also have an indoor summer picnic each year, an Anniversary luncheon and a Christmas luncheon, both held at outside banquet facilities.

Members of the Gold Card Club may also take advantage of the many bus trips scheduled through the year as well as a bowling league.

For bowling information, please contact **Tom Noonan** at 412-913-2942.

A monthly newsletter, prepared by the corresponding secretary, is sent to all members who are CURRENT on their membership dues.

Questions regarding membership should be directed to **Cindy Carfagno** at 412-831-1913 or [t2323@comcast.net](mailto:t2323@comcast.net).



## SENIOR CITIZEN'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

**Friday, Dec. 15**  
**1 PM**

**Bethel Park High School Cafeteria**  
**\$11 per person**

Any Bethel Park resident 60 years+ is invited to attend the annual Holiday Luncheon on Friday, Dec. 15, at 1 p.m. in the Bethel Park High School Cafeteria.

Guests will enjoy a traditional holiday meal while also being entertained by performances of high school musical groups including Top 21 singers, Orchestra and Symphonic band. This is a great way to enjoy holiday food, music and fellowship with friends and neighbors!

**Registration forms will be available beginning Nov. 1** at the Bethel Park Community Center or online at [www.bethelpark.net](http://www.bethelpark.net).

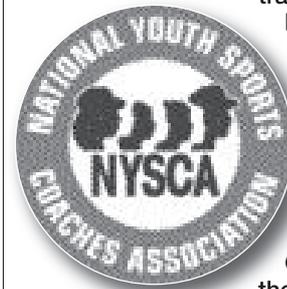
Registration deadline for the luncheon is Thursday, Dec. 8 or until filled. **This event always fills up quickly, so send your reservation in today!!**

The luncheon is sponsored by Bethel Park Recreation Department. For additional information call 412-851-2910.

**Pre-registration is required. Walk-ins will not be permitted to attend.**

## ARE YOU A YOUTH SPORT VOLUNTEER COACH?

The **National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA)** is a membership organization and the most widely used volunteer coach training program in the nation, having trained more than 3 million coaches since 1981.



The NYSCA volunteer coach training program is designed to sensitize volunteer coaches to their responsibilities and hold them accountable to a strict Code of Conduct defined by the NYSCA Coaches' Code of Ethics Pledge.

The **NYSCA Introduction to Coaching Youth Sports** website is one of the most comprehensive resources for volunteer coaches, no matter what sport you're coaching. The website is designed to improve your understanding in all the important areas of youth coaching.

Coaches who are trained and educated on the many different aspects involved with coaching kids are best prepared to provide participants with a fun-filled, safe, and rewarding experience.

Please consider completing this valuable online training at [www.nays.org](http://www.nays.org).



# ADULT PROGRAMS

## CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

### PERFECT PIEROGI WORKSHOP

Have you always wanted to learn how to make your own pierogis? Store bought are good, but homemade are the best! Students will be provided with recipes, and hands-on instruction in rolling and pinching dough, cooking and of course, tasting. You will have your newfound skill in time to make homemade pierogis for your Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner. Feel free to BYOB your favorite adult beverage and really make this a festive class!

Students should bring a rolling pin (*if possible*) and an apron.

Instructor: Dianne Nicholson

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 18 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$30.00** Non-Res Fee: \$35.00  
 1 session date

3935.300  
 Dates: 10/20/2023 Fri  
 Time: 6:00PM - 8:00PM

3935.301  
 Dates: 11/03/2023 Fri  
 Time: 6:00PM - 8:00PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**

### PHOTO PRESERVATION & ORGANIZATION

Come and join us for an educational presentation on how to Calm the Chaos of your printed and digital photo collections! Do you have printed photos in drawers, frames, albums and digital photos on phones, computers, memory sticks, etc.? Learn how to organize and clean up the mess as we cover topics on scanning, media conversion, phone photos, temporary solutions and permanent solutions, metadata, cloud services, and celebrating your memories. Lisa Webster of My Memories for Generations has been helping families for over eight years to organize, preserve, share, and celebrate their memories. She will give you the information needed to make informed decisions and will help you create a photo plan for generations.

Instructor: Lisa Webster

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 18 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$17.00** Non-Res Fee: \$22.00  
 1 session date

3935.302  
 Dates: 09/19/2023 Tue  
 Time: 6:00PM - 8:00PM

3935.303  
 Dates: 10/17/2023 Tue  
 Time: 6:00PM - 8:00PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**

## FITNESS & EXERCISE

### TOTAL BODY BOOT CAMP

Total Body Boot Camp is an intense boot camp style class designed for men and women of all ages and all fitness levels. This class will work your entire body through resistance training, body weight exercises, balance and stability moves, core work, and cardio. Students just getting back to workouts will be shown appropriate modifications to make their workout safe but just as effective!. Every class will be a new workout that will leave you feeling strong and energized! Get ready to work hard and sweat it out with Cortney!

Instructor: Cortney Sweeney

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 18 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$45.00** Non-Res Fee: \$50.00  
 6 session dates

3920.319  
 Dates: 09/11/2023 - 10/23/2023 Mon  
 Time: 7:00PM - 8:00PM

3920.329  
 Dates: 10/30/2023 - 12/04/2023 Mon  
 Time: 7:00PM - 8:00PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**

### POWER YOGA

Power Yoga is designed for all levels in mind. You may go at whatever speed suits you! Challenge yourself with a blend of Pilates and Yoga, leaning more on the Yoga side. Stretching, energizing yoga poses and relaxation are the focus for this class. Stretch and meditation are done in the final portion of the class hour. Bring your own mat, water and towel.

Instructor: Christi Fredrick

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 18 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$40.00** Non-Res Fee: \$45.00  
 6 session dates

3920.322  
 Dates: 09/06/2023 - 10/11/2023 Wed  
 Time: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

3920.332  
 Dates: 10/25/2023 - 12/13/2023 Wed  
 Time: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**  
**No Class: Nov 22 & Dec 6**

### ADVANCED POWER YOGA

This class is a continuation of Power Yoga. Still a blend of Yoga and Pilates stretches and poses, with an emphasis on taking your practice to the next level. It is recommended to take at least one session of Power Yoga before signing up for Advanced. Bring your own mat, water and towel.

Instructor: Christi Fredrick

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 18 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$40.00** Non-Res Fee: \$45.00  
 6 session dates

3920.323  
 Dates: 09/06/2023 - 10/11/2023 Wed  
 Time: 7:05PM - 8:05PM

3920.333  
 Dates: 10/25/2023 - 12/13/2023 Wed  
 Time: 7:05PM - 8:05PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**  
**No Class: Nov 22 & Dec 6**

★ NEW! NEW! NEW! ★

### PLYOGA

Cardio "bursts" combined with Yoga elements merge to make a super fun fitness experience! PLYOGA participants can fall in line with timing and intensity that fits their fitness level. PLYOGA is a combination of Plyometric movements and Yoga. Participants are able to work towards cardiovascular goals, strength and Yoga poses. A fantastic blend of everything fitness! Bring your own mat and water.

Instructor: Christi Fredrick

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 18 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$40.00** Non-Res Fee: \$45.00  
 6 session dates

3920.324  
 Dates: 09/07/2023 - 10/12/2023 Thu  
 Time: 7:00PM - 8:00PM

3920.334  
 Dates: 10/26/2023 - 12/07/2023 Thu  
 Time: 7:00PM - 8:00PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**  
**No Class: Nov 23**



### ZUMBA® GOLD

Time flies when you are having fun. That's exactly what has been going on at the Community Center for the past 15 years. FUN! Most of the time it really doesn't feel like you're working out at all—you just get caught up in the fun of the music and the moves. Before you know it, a whole heart-pumping hour has passed! Before you know it 15 years have passed, and you are still coming! No experience necessary, people of all ages, shapes and sizes are welcomed. If you like a good sweat, then you'll love Zumba® Gold. If you haven't tried Zumba® yet, what are you waiting for?

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Instructor: Kathy Raeder  
 Ages: 18 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$40.00** Non-Res Fee: \$45.00  
**Twice a week: \$60.00** Non-Res Fee: \$65.00  
 6 session dates

3920.306  
 Dates: 09/12/2023 - 10/17/2023 Tue  
 Time: 7:00PM - 8:00PM

3920.307  
 Dates: 09/13/2023 - 10/18/2023 Wed  
 Time: 9:30AM - 10:30AM

3920.308  
 Dates: 09/14/2023 - 10/19/2023 Thu  
 Time: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

3920.316  
 Dates: 10/24/2023 - 12/12/2023 Tue  
 Time: 7:00PM - 8:00PM

3920.317  
 Dates: 10/25/2023 - 12/06/2023 Wed  
 Time: 9:30AM - 10:30AM

3920.318  
 Dates: 10/26/2023 - 12/07/2023 Thu  
 Time: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**  
**No Class: Oct 31, Nov 21, Nov 22, Nov 23**

**CHECK OUT THE FARMERS' MARKET**



**TUESDAYS, 3 - 7 p.m.**  
**through Sept. 26!**

**South Park Ice Skating Parking Lot**

**SATURDAY CLASSES ARE HIGHLIGHTED**

## ZUMBA® GOLD FOR ACTIVE SENIOR/BEGINNER

Zumba® Gold for the Active Senior and Beginner is the same great fun as all the other classes but slightly more simplified. Age is not an issue in this class. We have young-ins to the young at heart attending. If you can shake it and like to have fun, this class is for you. Songs range from Latin to Pop and all levels are encouraged to give it a try. The design of the class introduces easy-to-follow Zumba® choreography that focuses on balance, range of motion and coordination. Goal of this class is to move a little and have a lot of fun!!

Instructor: Kathy Raeder  
\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 18 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$30.00** Non-Res Fee: \$35.00  
**Twice a week: \$50.00** Non-Res Fee: \$55.00  
6 session dates

3920.320  
Dates: 09/11/2023 - 10/16/2023 Mon  
Time: 10:35AM - 11:15AM

3920.321  
Dates: 09/13/2023 - 10/18/2023 Wed  
Time: 10:35AM - 11:15AM

3920.330  
Dates: 10/23/2023 - 12/04/2023 Mon  
Time: 10:35AM - 11:15AM

3930.331  
Dates: 10/25/2023 - 12/06/2023 Wed  
Time: 10:35AM - 11:15AM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**  
**No Class: Nov 20, Nov 22**

## QIGONG

Qigong, an ancient practice originating in China, is comprised of simple, efficient, and effective movements to help manage and reduce stress, heal physical and emotional pain and enhance quality of life. Qi means "energy" and Gong means "to work with" so simply put Qigong means working with the body's energy. Qigong has movements similar to tai chi movements, yet simpler. Anyone regardless of age, ability or fitness level can practice Qigong and become healthier and happier. Some benefits of practicing include increase in oxygen uptake for stronger muscles, soothes the nervous system, improves metabolism and digestion, helps clear the mind for greater mental clarity and promotes greater flexibility. In addition to learning SFQ, students will also learn the Eight Pieces of Brocade, one of the most ancient forms of Qigong. No special equipment is required, please wear loose, comfortable clothing. It is recommended that you NOT wear earrings. Instructor Vince has been practicing Spring Forest Qigong (SFQ) for 10 years and is a certified SFQ Professional.

Instructor: Vince Galloni  
\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 18 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$40.00** Non-Res Fee: \$45.00  
**Twice a week: \$60.00** Non-Res Fee: \$65.00  
6 session dates

3920.300  
Dates: 09/13/2023 - 10/18/2023 Wed  
Time: 6:15PM - 7:00PM

3920.301  
Dates: 09/09/2023 - 10/14/2023 Sat  
Time: 11:45AM - 12:30PM

3920.302  
Dates: 09/11/2023 - 10/16/2023 Mon  
Time: 11:00AM - 11:45AM

3920.310  
Dates: 10/23/2023 - 12/04/2023 Mon  
Time: 11:00AM - 11:45AM

3920.311  
Dates: 11/01/2023 - 12/13/2023 Wed  
Time: 6:15PM - 7:00PM

3920.312  
Dates: 10/28/2023 - 12/09/2023 Sat  
Time: 11:45AM - 12:30PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**  
**No Class: Nov 20, Nov 22**

## T'AI-CHI BEGINNER

This traditional Yang Tai-Chi Chuan is for the beginning student as well as the student who wants to work on the first 1/3 of the form. In this class you will learn the principals in order to develop better balance, coordination and posture.

No prior experience is required. Wear comfortable clothes and slippers or socks.

Instructor: Tamara Stark  
\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 18 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$61.00** Non-Res Fee: \$66.00  
**Twice a week: \$91.00** Non-Res Fee: \$96.00  
6 session dates

3920.303  
Dates: 09/05/2023 - 10/10/2023 Tue  
Time: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

3920.304  
Dates: 09/06/2023 - 10/11/2023 Wed  
Time: 10:00AM - 11:00AM

3920.313  
Dates: 10/24/2023 - 12/05/2023 Tue  
Time: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

3920.314  
Dates: 10/25/2023 - 12/06/2023 Wed  
Time: 10:00AM - 11:00AM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**



## T'AI-CHI INTERMEDIATE

This class is designed for students who have previous experience in a Tai Chi class and want to further their knowledge and experience. Students will work on postures past the first third of the form. Instructor recommendation is required to enroll in this course.

Instructor: Tamara Stark  
\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 18 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$61.00** Non-Res Fee: \$66.00  
6 session dates

3920.305  
Dates: 09/06/2023 - 10/11/2023 Wed  
Time: 11:00AM - 12:00PM

3920.315  
Dates: 10/25/2023 - 12/06/2023 Wed  
Time: 11:00AM - 12:00PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**  
**No Class: Nov 21 & Nov 22**

Look for the next issue of the  
**Bethel Park Chronicles** mailed in  
**December 2023!**

**SATURDAY CLASSES ARE HIGHLIGHTED**



★ NEW! NEW! NEW! ★

## SENSE HANDS

In this class you will learn the "internal" system of Tai-Chi. When you practice you develop energy without tenseness and acquire a more heightened awareness of yourself and other players. The principals learned in the form are used at a much higher level as a soft martial art. This class is open to all students who have learned the form.

Instructor: Tamara Stark  
\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 18 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$61.00** Non-Res Fee: \$66.00  
6 session dates

3920.336  
Dates: 09/08/2023 - 10/13/2023 Fri  
Time: 10:15AM - 11:15AM

3920.338  
Dates: 10/27/2023 - 12/08/2023 Fri  
Time: 10:15AM - 11:15AM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**  
**No Class: Nov 23 & Nov 24**

## SPORTS

★ NEW! NEW! NEW! ★

## BALLANCE

BALLance method was designed in Germany by sports scientist, Dr. Tanja Kuhne. It is a series of exercises done with specially designed soft balls connected by a flexible spring. The movements release and decompress the spine, while improving posture, spinal alignment, and range of motion. You will focus on the thoracic, lumbar, and cervical spine, as well as the hips and shoulders and leave feeling taller and more balanced. This is a great complement to any workout routine and has many benefits for those who sit or stand for long periods of time. The equipment is provided. Please bring a yoga mat and wear comfortable exercise clothing with yoga or athletic socks. Instructor, Jill Nolan, is the only certified BALLance instructor in the Pittsburgh area and is also currently training for a certification in classical Pilates. \*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 13 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$45.00** Non-Res Fee: \$50.00  
6 session dates

3920.340  
Dates: 09/11/2023 - 10/16/2023 Mon  
Time: 6:00PM - 6:50PM

3920.341  
Dates: 09/14/2023 - 10/19/2023 Thu  
Time: 10:00AM - 10:50AM

3920.342  
Dates: 10/30/2023 - 12/04/2023 Mon  
Time: 6:00PM - 6:50PM

3920.343  
Dates: 11/02/2023 - 12/14/2023 Thu  
Time: 10:00AM - 10:50AM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**  
**No Class: Nov 23 & Dec 6**



## PLEASE REGISTER IN ADVANCE!

Register at least 24-hours in advance of program start! Programs not meeting the minimum number of students will be canceled. Online registrations are highly encouraged at [www.bethelpark.net](http://www.bethelpark.net).



## BASKETBALL

Men play on Thursday evenings. Limited spots are available. Everyone MUST register and prepay to participate.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 18 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$40.00** Non-Res Fee: \$45.00  
 8 session dates

3915.304  
 Dates: 10/12/2023 - 12/07/2023 Thu  
 Time: 8:00PM - 10:00PM

**Location:** Neil Armstrong Middle School  
**No Class:** Nov 23

## COUCH POTATO BASKETBALL

Men play on Monday evenings. Limited spots are available. Everyone MUST register and prepay to participate.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 18 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$40.00** Non-Res Fee: \$45.00  
 8 session dates

3915.305  
 Dates: 10/09/2023 - 12/11/2023 Mon  
 Time: 8:00PM - 10:00PM

**Location:** Neil Armstrong Middle School  
**No Class:** Oct 30 & Nov 27

## PICKLEBALL

Men and women, boys and girls ages 13 and over can register for our recreational Pickleball program at the Bethel Park Community Center gym. This is one of the fastest growing sports in the US combining elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong. Pickleball is a low-impact sport played on a court smaller than the size of a tennis court. General knowledge of game rules and beginner skill level is needed as this is not an instructional class. Players must be able to bend to pick up balls and move forward and backward to play. You may register for a maximum of two days per week. Call **412-851-2910** for more information. REGISTRATION INFO: Registration is open to RESIDENTS ONLY August 7, 9:00 AM.

Non-residents may begin registering on August 10, 9:00 AM.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 13 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$30.00** Non-Res Fee: \$35.00  
 6 session dates

3915.300  
 Dates: 09/11/2023 - 10/16/2023 Mon  
 Time: 12:00PM - 2:15PM

3915.301  
 Dates: 09/13/2023 - 10/18/2023 Wed  
 Time: 12:00PM - 2:15PM

3915.302  
 Dates: 09/15/2023 - 10/20/2023 Fri  
 Time: 12:00PM - 2:15PM

3915.310  
 Dates: 10/30/2023 - 12/11/2023 Mon  
 Time: 12:00PM - 2:15PM

3915.311  
 Dates: 11/01/2023 - 12/13/2023 Wed  
 Time: 12:00PM - 2:15PM

3915.312  
 Dates: 11/03/2023 - 12/22/2023 Fri  
 Time: 12:00PM - 2:15PM

**Location:** Bethel Park Community Center  
**No Class:** Nov 10, Nov 20, Nov 22, Nov 24

## LADIES VOLLEYBALL

This is a NON-TEACHING recreational program that plays according to PIAA high school rules. Players should have knowledge of volleyball rules and skills at either intermediate or advanced level. This is a fun ladies' night out to meet new people and enjoy some exercise. If you can only attend occasionally, there is a nightly drop-in fee.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 18 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$30.00** Non-Res Fee: \$35.00  
 6 session dates

3915.303  
 Dates: 09/11/2023 - 10/16/2023 Mon  
 Time: 7:30PM - 9:00PM

3915.306  
 Dates: 10/30/2023 - 12/4/2023 Mon  
 Time: 7:30PM - 9:00PM

**Location:** Bethel Park Community Center

## MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Men play on Wednesday nights. Pick-up Men's Volleyball. Prior experience not necessary but players are expected to follow official USA indoor volleyball rules. Everyone must register and prepay to participate.

Ages: 18 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$96.00** Non-Res Fee: \$101.00  
 14 session dates

3915.307  
 Dates: 09/06/2023 - 12/13/2023 Wed  
 Time: 8:00PM - 10:00PM

**Location:** Independence Middle School



BETHEL PARK  
 COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



*Dean Streater*

*Holiday Concert*

**Sunday, Dec. 10**

**2:30 p.m.**

**Bethel Park Community Center**

**Community Band South**

Directed By Jim Bennett and Max Gonano

**Bethel Park High School's Top 21 Vocal Ensemble**

Directed By Todd Kuczawa

**Southminster Presbyterian Church Bell Ringers**

Directed by Richard Pinkerton

Plus, Christmas tree cookies from Bethel Bakery!

The program is sponsored by the Bethel Park Community Foundation and is free, although contributions in support of the Foundation's grants programs are welcome.

The holiday concert is always very well attended. Please come early to get parking and a seat.

**SATURDAY CLASSES ARE HIGHLIGHTED**

# Eighth Annual Gingerbread House Display & Competition

**Register by Nov. 20!**

Calling all Gingerbread enthusiasts! Bethel Park Recreation is excited to announce that we are continuing one of our favorite Holiday Community traditions – the annual Gingerbread House Display! Individuals, Families, and Community Groups are invited to enter their “masterpiece” in the Seventh Annual Gingerbread House Display.



All houses will be on display at the Bethel Park Community Center for the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, taking place on **Wednesday, Dec. 6**. Judging will take place just prior to the ceremony. Judges are selected from the local community. Prize Ribbons will be awarded to the winner.

Display space will be limited. Please register by **Nov. 20** to reserve a spot for your creation. All Gingerbread Houses will be accepted for delivery on **Monday, Dec. 4 and Tuesday, Dec. 5**. Entry fee Donations will be accepted and disbursed to a local charity.

For more information and instructions about entering your creation, display requirements, and delivery dates/times, please stop by the Community Center to pick up an information packet available in October.



## SPOTLIGHT

*(cont. from pg. 19)*



*New Park Avenue  
Playground!*



## SPECIAL INTEREST

### PAVILION PERMITS

**Fee \$30.00**

Any resident of Bethel Park may reserve selected picnic areas at Simmons Park or Village Green Park. These areas include a shelter and several picnic tables. Permits are requested through RecDesk, our online software, at <https://bethelpark.net/parks-and-recreation/>.

Once we receive your request, we will let you know if your date/time is available. All Park and Municipal rules must be followed. **NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES** are permitted in any of the parks. The permit gives restricted use for the picnic area only. The tennis courts, sand volleyball court and ball fields are **NOT** included on the permit. Water and restrooms are available in both parks.

**THERE IS A NON-REFUNDABLE, NON-TRANSFERABLE \$30.00 CHARGE FOR A PAVILION PERMIT.**





## SilverSneakers® at the Bethel Park Community Center!

**SilverSneakers®** programs are offered at the Bethel Park Community Center. The **SilverSneakers®** Fitness Program is the nation's leading fitness program designed exclusively for older adults. Regular participation in the program has been proven to help older adults manage their health and increase strength, balance, and endurance.

**SilverSneakers®** is a benefit offered to members of many Medicare plans across the U.S. If you are part of a Medicare health plan or if you are a group retiree, you may already have the **SilverSneakers®** benefit. There are over 5.8 million Medicare-eligible members who qualify for **SilverSneakers®**. There is no cost for **SilverSneakers®** eligible adults to become members and participate. You may already have **SilverSneakers®** available to you!

**SilverSneakers®** offers three easy ways to enroll. Simply choose one of the following options that best suits your lifestyle and begin enjoying your benefit today!

- Simply take your **SilverSneakers®** Member ID card to the Bethel Park Community Center.
- No **SilverSneakers®** card? Bring your health plan ID card with you to the Community Center. Our staff will check your eligibility.
- Visit the Community Center and our staff can check on your eligibility by using your name, address, phone number, and birth date.

The **SilverSneakers®** Fitness Program is an innovative and fun health/exercise program helping older adults live healthy, active lifestyles. **Get fit, have fun, make new friends!**

Unlock the door to greater independence and a healthier life with **SilverSneakers®**. Benefits will include: Customized **SilverSneakers®** classes designed exclusively for older adults who want to improve their strength, flexibility, balance, and endurance.

**SilverSneakers®** members can take advantage of the climate controlled, elevated indoor walking track just by swiping their **SilverSneakers®** membership card. The 1/12-mile track features 3 lanes for fitness lap walking or running. Track is open for use:

**May 1 – Oct. 31 hours of operation are:**

**Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.**

**Saturday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.**

**Sunday, Noon - 6 p.m.**

**Nov. 1 – April 30 hours of operation are:**

**Monday – Saturday, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.**

**Sunday, Noon – 6 p.m.**

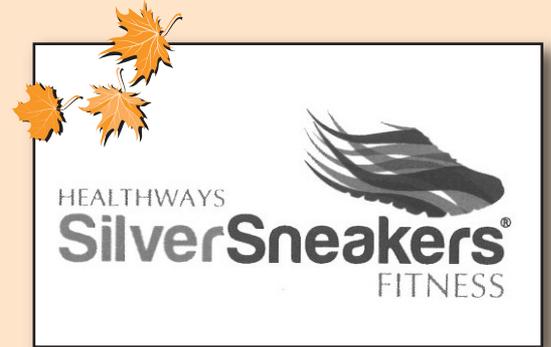
### What are SilverSneakers® classes?

**SilverSneakers®** classes are Total-Body Conditioning Classes designed to increase muscular strength, endurance, range of movement, flexibility, balance, agility, and coordination. The classes are anywhere from 45 to 60 minutes. Classes typically involve the use of hand-held weights, elastic tubing with handles, and a small exercise ball. A chair may be used for seating or additional support.

### Who teaches the classes?

**SilverSneakers®** classes are taught by credentialed instructors who are specially trained in leading fitness programs for aging adults. All **SilverSneakers®** class instructors undergo an in-person training and evaluation process to become a **SilverSneakers®** instructor. Our instructors are **Renea Bishop**, **Mary Ann Gerard**, and **Gerrie Delaney**. They are veteran instructors who have been teaching **SilverSneakers®** programs for years.

Visit [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) or the Bethel Park Community Center for monthly schedules



### SilverSneakers® CLASSIC

Have fun and move to the music through a variety of exercises designed to increase muscular strength, range of movement, and activity for daily living skills. Hand-held weights, elastic tubing with handles, and a SilverSneakers® ball are offered for resistance. A chair is used for seated and/or standing support.

### SilverSneakers® Yoga

Yoga will move your whole body through a complete series of seated and standing yoga poses. Chair support is offered to safely perform a variety of postures designed to increase flexibility, balance, and range of movement. Restorative breathing exercises and final relaxation will promote stress reduction and mental clarity.

### SilverSneakers® Boom Move - designed for the Active Senior

Gain stamina and strength as you break a sweat and HAVE FUN! A higher intensity dance workout class that improves cardio endurance and burns calories. The class focuses on cardio endurance by starting with simple dance moves then building into more complex sequences, bringing you a great cardio workout. No dance experience is required.

### SilverSneakers® Boom Muscle - designed for the Active Senior

Students will move through multiple "blocks," which are groups of exercise that focus on different muscle groups. Class incorporates athletic-based exercises that improve upper body conditioning, toning muscles and building overall strength.

### SilverSneakers® Circuit designed for the Active Senior

This Circuit workout offers standing, low-impact choreography alternated with upper body strength work. Students use hand-held weights, elastic tubing w/handles & other equipment while utilizing all parts of the body without too much stress. Build muscle, flexibility, cardio & tone.

### Mindful Movements

Class includes a combination of stretch, muscle work, balance, & flowing movements. Experience a workout for your minds, body & spirit.

### Strength & Stability designed for the Active Senior

Movements taught in class focus on specific exercises to improve strength and power around ankle, knee & hip joints while improving your reaction time. Become stronger and improve balance to prevent falls.

### SilverSneakers® Boom Mind

This is a mind & body fusion class format. The experience will include Yoga, Pilates, and functional movements for fall prevention. All exercises are a gentler approach to fitness through Pilates, core exercises, yoga and stretch to improve mindfulness and cognition.

### SilverSneakers® Beginner Line Dancing

Dance your way into wellness. You will learn basic line dances plus wedding and party dances, while improving your strength, balance and coordination. No equipment needed.

Visit [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) or the Bethel Park Community Center for monthly schedules.

# COMMUNITY DAY 2023!

Saturday, Sept. 9

BPBS Campus

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.



We will feature some exciting attractions this year!  
DJ will entertain with music selections from the past through today

#### KIDS ACTIVITIES INFLATABLES

Visit and enjoy the day as over 70 community groups will be providing activities, refreshments and games!  
Come out with your family for a fun day and help our community groups with their fundraising efforts!

# BETHEL PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

5151 PARK AVENUE



**MAY 1 – OCT. 31 HOURS OF OPERATION ARE:**  
**MONDAY – FRIDAY, 9 A.M. - 8 P.M.**  
**SATURDAY 9 A.M.- 6 P.M.**  
**SUNDAY, NOON - 6 P.M.**

**NOV. 1- APRIL 30 HOURS OF OPERATION ARE:**  
**MONDAY - SATURDAY, 9 A.M. - 9 P.M.**  
**SUNDAY, NOON - 6 P.M.**

Open gym schedule is posted monthly and is available at the front desk.

The Bethel Park Community Center continues to be the center of activity in the community. Frequently reserved for social and professional functions, the facility is well known throughout the South Hills. The Community Center, with 40,495 sq. ft. of space, includes areas for special events and meetings, a gymnasium and locker area, an exercise/dance studio, walking track and a separate classroom. The large multi-purpose room has seating to accommodate 245 and is capable of being divided into three separate rooms. The Community Center also includes a lounge, catering-style kitchen & stage. Walking trails, playground equipment, and a lighted multi-purpose field are situated on the center's grounds.

Call 412-851-2910 for room reservations or other information.

IN ORDER TO ENSURE SAFETY FOR ALL  
 COMMUNITY CENTER USERS,  
CHILDREN UNDER 13 MUST BE UNDER  
DIRECT SUPERVISION OF AN ADULT AT ALL TIMES.

## COMMUNITY CENTER ADULTS AND YOUTH CLUBS

### Vintage Radio Players

Players meet the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month from 1-2:30 p.m. Membership is open to all interested adults 18 and over. This group rehearses and presents re-enactments of the radio shows from the 1940's and 50's, complete with sound effects and commercials.

For additional information contact **Jeanne Miller** at 412-600-9092

### Bethel Artist Guild

Membership is open to Bethel Park Artists of any medium. Club members' work is displayed at the Center throughout the year. Monthly meetings are held on the **first Thursday** of the month in February, March, April, May, September, October, and December at 12:30 pm. Call the Artist Guild at 412-835-7379 for additional information.

Call the Bethel Park Community Center at 412-851-2910 for information on all our activities. If you have a special interest and would be interested in helping to form a new club or activity group, contact the Community Center.

## Membership Fees & Renewals

A membership card is required to use the Bethel Park Community Center **Gymnasium and Walking Track**. Both residents and non-residents can purchase 12-month memberships at the Community Center during normal business hours.

All memberships can be done online through our RecDesk software. Please visit [www.bethelpark.net](http://www.bethelpark.net). Once payment is received through our system, an identification photo will be kept on file for each member upon your first visit. New members will receive both a wallet size member card as well as a small key tag card.

**CHILDREN UNDER 13 MUST BE UNDER  
 DIRECT SUPERVISION OF AN ADULT AT ALL TIMES**

<u>Annual Membership/Renewal:</u>	<u>Resident</u>	<u>Nonresident</u>
Youth (13 - 17 years old)	\$ 5	\$ 125
Adult (18 - 59 years old)	\$ 10	\$ 150
Family	\$ 25	\$ 250
Senior Adult (60+)	\$ 5	\$ 80
Day pass: Individual	\$ 1	\$ 10

To purchase day passes, you must sign a waiver and provide a photo ID to prove residency.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

All Gym memberships expire 12 months after they were issued. Please remember to renew your membership at <https://www.bethelpark.net>.



## MUNICIPAL OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED:

**Labor Day - Monday, Sept. 4**  
**Thanksgiving - Thursday, Nov. 23-26**

**Veterans Day – Friday, Nov. 10**  
*(Community Center will be open that day 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.)*

## THE COMMUNITY CENTER WILL BE CLOSED:

**Labor Day – Sept. 4**  
**Thanksgiving – Nov. 23-26**

# RENTAL PROCEDURES

## RENTAL PROCEDURES

Reserving a room at the Bethel Park Community Center for your next event is a simple, straightforward process and may be done up to a six months in advance. However, it is recommended that you reserve your space early as dates fill up quickly!

- Requests for rentals must be requested through our RecDesk software. The RecDesk portal can be found on [www.bethelpark.net](http://www.bethelpark.net). There will be a requirement of an electronic signature required for all forms necessary.
- Within a 5 business days, you'll be able to see if your request was approved via the RecDesk online portal.
- If the space is available and approved, you'll be sent an invoice for the amount that is due via the RecDesk online portal.

## PAYMENT SCHEDULE

- Fifty percent of total rental fees is due as soon as the rental is approved and first invoice is provided.
- The remaining 50% is due 30 days prior to your event.
- A refundable security deposit (*cash or check only*) and room layout is due ten days prior to your event.

\*\*Please note that while we want your event to be a success, failure to meet any payment or layout deadlines may result in rental cancellation. Fees paid will not be refunded.

## CANCELLATION POLICY/FEEES

If you need to cancel your event, your request **MUST** be submitted in writing to the Community Center Director. Cancellation fees follow:

- Cancellations received in writing more than 60 days prior to the scheduled date will receive a refund of 50% of initial rental payment, less a \$5 processing fee.
- No refund will be issued if written cancellation is received less than 60 days prior to event.

## OTHER RENTAL NOTES

- Any use of the Community Center which requires Municipal staff to stay after the scheduled closing time shall be charged an additional \$40 per hour for any portion of an hour that may be needed.
- Should your event need an alcohol permit for 150 persons or more, as a requirement, there will be additional security personnel fee.
- Rental rate includes the set-up of tables and chairs.
- Renters will be responsible to visit the Community Center ten days in advance of their event to sign-off on all seating/room arrangements. The security/damage deposit should also be paid at this time. Rate: \$100 per area rented.



## ROOM RENTAL FEES

RENTAL RATES LISTED ARE FOR BETHEL PARK RESIDENTS. NON-RESIDENTS OR ORGANIZATIONS NOT LOCATED IN BETHEL PARK MUST CALL THE CENTER AT 412-851-2910 FOR RENTAL RATES.

AREA	RATE	CAPACITY
A	\$25 per hour	49
B	\$50 per hour	148
C	\$25 per hour	49
CLASSROOM	\$25 per hour	49
A B C	\$75 per hour	245
Catering Kitchen	\$100 per event	
Stage	\$50 per event	(With Area B only)
Alcohol Permit	*\$50 per room	

\*If event w/ alcohol has 150 persons or more, security personnel fee will be a minimum charge of \$240.00.

Room Rental fees listed are per hour. **Keep in mind that rental hours must include the entire time that you need access to the rental space beginning with set-up, including event time and through clean-up.**

All rentals require a minimum 4-hour reservation.

**RENTAL RATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

## Community Center Facilities

\*Indicates rentable areas

\* **Multipurpose Room** This exceptional room can be divided into three separate sections to accommodate small and medium groups. With dividers open, the room can accommodate large group functions. The Multipurpose Room is perfect for wedding receptions, showers, banquets, parties, meetings or other special events.

\* **Catering Kitchen** Add this room to your rental when meals will be served at your event. Kitchen includes commercial ovens, grill, refrigerator, freezer, coffee makers, microwave and dishwasher.

\* **Theatrical Stage** Does your event need a stage? The Stage may be rented in conjunction with the rental of Room B.

**Lobby** Bookshelves are located in the lobby, across from the main desk containing a lending library of puzzles and books available for residents of all ages to borrow.

**Lounge** Equipped with a kitchenette, chairs, TV, magazines and game tables, the lounge provides a comfortable atmosphere to relax, read, enjoy a card game with friends or watch television. An adult or guardian must accompany guests under age 13.

\* **Classroom** This room includes couches, TV, sink and counter area, restroom, along with tables and chairs. The Classroom may be used for small group rentals, youth and adult Recreation classes or meetings.

**Gymnasium** Includes one full-length and one ½ basketball court; can also be converted to three ½ sized courts. It has a total of eight basketball hoops. Also features three ½ size volleyball courts.

**Exercise Studio** A bright and open mirrored area to accommodate a variety of fitness and dance classes.

**Elevated Walking Track** Features a 1/12 mile cushioned walking track that overlooks the gymnasium.

**Day Lockers** May be used during your visit to the Community Center. No locks are permitted to remain overnight.

# STAR PARTY

Friday, Sept. 15  
Presentation Time: 7 PM

Come and enjoy a night of viewing the stars, planets, galaxies and nebula. Our night will begin with a presentation from our own local Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh. Listen to what can be seen in our own galaxy the "Milky Way", plus galaxies that are millions of miles away.

After the presentation, all guests will be invited to look through the telescopes of volunteers – with current safety precautions. Explanations of what is being viewed will be given along with answering any questions that are asked. First timers will be amazed at what can be seen. Returning individuals will enjoy another view of the wonders of the Universe.

Do you have a telescope, but aren't sure how to use it? Bring it along and members of the Astronomers Association will help you get set up and started using it properly!

Bring your binoculars if you have them. You don't need a telescope to enjoy the night sky. Star hopping techniques to find galaxies, nebula and interesting stars will be shown to those who ask.



## Location:

Millennium Park • 5900 Baptist Road • Bethel Park, PA 15102

## NEW REGISTRATION PROCEDURES!



**NEW**

**New Recreation  
Program  
Registration Kiosk!**

To make registrations easier for our participants, we're moving to online registrations! You no longer have to clip a registration form and send it or bring it in to us.

### Recreation Registration Web Page

For current Program Registration, click below.

[Click here for Registration Policies and Procedures](#)

**REGISTER HERE!**

[Click here for Community Center Information.](#)

Keep up to date with all the latest from Bethel Park Recreation on our Facebook page:  
[Bethel Park Recreation Facebook Page](#)

#### We would like to hear from you!!

Unable to find the recreation program you are looking for, or have a suggestion for a new program not currently offered? We want to hear from you, so please call the Recreation Office at (412)831-1328 or submit your inquiry by [clicking here](#).

#### Summer Day Camp Registration Information

Actual Summer Day Camp registration must be conducted in person at the Bethel Park Community Center. Bring completed registration form, completed forms from Parent Packet as well as payment to complete the registration process. Community Center hours are Monday – Saturday 9am – 9pm & Sunday 12pm – 6pm

Click the links below to download all the necessary forms.

[2023 Bethel Park Youth Summer Day Camp Registration Form \(PDF\)](#)

[2023 Bethel Park Youth Summer Day Camp Parent Packet \(PDF\)](#)

Simply visit <https://bethelpark.net/parks-and-recreation>. Click on the large orange "Register Here!" button (shown in the graphic below) and get started.

And, there's no longer a credit card fee to register online for classes!

### No computer access? No worries!

Drop by the Community Center (5151 Park Ave.) to use one of our new Registration Kiosks. Our friendly staff will be on hand to assist with kiosk usage if needed!

### Questions?

Call 412-851-2910.



# SCHOOL DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION

MAIN TELEPHONE NUMBER .....833-5000

### Central Administration

301 Church Road, Bethel Park 15102

- Dr. James Walsh, Superintendent .....854-8402
- Dr. Mark Korcinsky, Assistant Superintendent for Facilities and Operations: .....854-8608
- Mandi Figlioli, Coordinator of Curriculum & Instruction K-12 ....854-8420
- Elizabeth Wells, Coordinator of Curriculum & Instruction K-12 ..854-8420
- L. Douglas McCausland, Finance Director/Business Manager .....854-8425
- Sharon Kopy, Assistant Finance Director .....854-8445
- Dr. David Muench, Director of Student Support Services ....854-8405
- Dr. Sarah Shue, Supervisor of Special Education .....854-8699
- Anthony Piscioneri, Director of Human Resources.....854-8413
- Brett Slezak, Director of Technology .....854-8418
- Chris Gawlas, School Police Officer .....854-8592
- Brandon Agostinelli, Food Services Director, Metz Culinary Management .....854-8754
- Dan Sloan, Athletic Director .....854-8548
- Laura Grimm, Assistant Athletic Director .....854-8548
- James Cromie, Director of Communication and Public Relations .....854-8438

### Bethel Park High School

309 Church Road, Bethel Park 15102

- Joseph Villani, Principal .....854-8581
- James Fodse, Assistant Principal Student Academics & Affairs .....854-8580
- Keith Walters, Assistant Principal Student Academics & Affairs .....854-8516
- Counseling Office .....854-8595
- Health Office .....854-8550
- Attendance Office .....854-8572
- Library .....854-8565
- Records Office .....854-8595
- Activities Office .....854-8514
- Athletic Office .....854-8548

### Independence 7-8 Middle School

2807 Bethel Church Road, Bethel Park 15102

- Racquel Sutton, Principal.....854-8677
- Tyler Dillinger, Assistant Principal .....854-8678

### Neil Armstrong 5-6 Middle School

5800 Murray Avenue, Bethel Park 15102

- Kenneth Patterson, Principal .....854-8751
- Sheryl Kremer, Assistant Principal.....854-8756

### Abraham Lincoln Elementary School

1524 Hamilton Road, Pittsburgh 15234

- Jay Johnson, Principal ..... 854-8618

### Benjamin Franklin Elementary School

5400 Florida Avenue, Bethel Park 15102

- Teresa Doumont, Principal .....854-8741

### Memorial Elementary School

3301 South Park Road, Bethel Park 15102

- Eric Chalus, Principal .....854-8506

### George Washington Elementary School

515 Clifton Road, Bethel Park 15102

- Fred Pearson, Principal .....854-8546

### William Penn Elementary School

110 Woodlet Lane, Bethel Park 15102

- Brian Lenosky, Principal, Director for Cyber/Alternative Learning Options.....854-8522

VISIT US ONLINE @ [www.bpsd.org](http://www.bpsd.org)

## BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS



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## A Message From...

# DR. JAMES WALSH

## Superintendent



The school district is nearly two years into our 5-year Strategic Plan. This is a good time to take a step back, or up to a 10,000-foot view, to be reflective and ask ourselves some broader questions, like “Is this a good plan,” and “Are we moving the needle?” From a broader vantage point, it is easier to notice the indicators of those broader questions by looking at subtle moves and tectonic shifts in the system. The district administration will soon be convening a committee to more formally evaluate our progress and recommend mid-point revisions to the plan. Let’s look more globally at the efficacy of the plan.

Let’s start with question number one. Is it a good plan? Adopted in November of 2021, this Strategic Plan is very aggressive. There are six distinct “buckets” of goals. Those buckets have 17 broad and ambitious goals and 96 action steps specified to achieve the goals. Some of these focus on simpler actions such as purchasing “Welcome to Kindergarten” signs. Some are more go-getting and broadly aimed, such as incorporating the principles of Universal Design into all our academic programs. Does that range of goals and action steps make it a good plan? That’s debatable. Some systems work better with fewer goals and in shorter time spans. We do not believe Bethel Park School District is that nimble and responsive. We are more like an ocean liner that takes time and lots of space to turn. With that in mind, we have given ourselves five years to achieve our goals. However, so many of the goals are directed at a change in culture and everyday thinking, we honestly recognize that it will take every bit of five years to accomplish, probably even longer. To be clear, these are critically important shifts we need to make. We just have to appreciate how a big system like ours will take the time to bring everybody along. So...it is not specifically the range of goals and action steps that make it a good plan, but the significant and positive shift that will happen to Bethel Park because of the plan, the range of goals, and our willingness to commit the time to see the change through. There are other reasons it is a good plan.

First, the plan was formed by many stakeholders: students, teachers, administrators, parents, legal guardians, board members, and business leaders, each bringing their hopes and aspirations for a better future in Bethel Park. The stakeholders’ process of developing the goals was not a free-for-all or like throwing darts. It was a deliberative process that took months. We laid bare all our warts and problems, we were exposed and vulnerable. Then we culled the relevant data, consumed educational research, and even examined our benchmarking schools to find the ideas, programs, and services that would lead Bethel Park to a better future. This is a good plan because of our open-minded approach, the stakeholders’ investment in the process, and the deliberative process through which they worked.

Our ambition is another reason it is a good plan. We dreamt big, and we made big plans. We aim to re-examine just about everything in the school district. We seek to move our people toward a learner-centered school infused with engaging, 21st-century skill-based experiences, where we care as much about academic achievements as we do personal well-being. We want to live up to our age-old beliefs and values statements. Where all children can learn, and everyone is entitled to be treated with dignity and respect. That the student’s educational journey is to be shared by the school, the home, and the community. Where our teachers and administrators are professionals, who facilitate learning while continually learning themselves, and where learning is something a child does, not something that is done to a child. Academic excellence is encouraged and recognized. And learning is a never-ending process. This is who we are. This is what we believe.

This is also a good plan because it is more than just a dust collector on our shelf. The leadership team talks about it often and refers to it in our deliberations. Every decision we make has an underlying theme toward the question of matching to goals in the strategic plan. This plan is alive with possibility and ambition – with a great team to implement it – the plan provides the roadmap we are following to the new and improved Bethel Park.

The second question from 10,000 feet is, “Are we moving the needle?” In other words, “Is this plan working?” Yes, without question. Every direction and decision can be traced back to one of the goals in the plan. Nothing is done by happenstance, nor are we jumping on any fad bandwagon of change. With this plan, we laid a plan for a better future for Bethel Park, so each action, each change, each new hire, each budget cut, or whatever metric you want to use points toward the strategic plan. We continually ask, “is this action, this person, this proposal going to make us ‘best in class?’” By that, I can assure you the plan provides strategic direction to the district’s day-to-day operations – and that laser-like focus is moving the needle. It is our north star.

So, yes, we have made progress. We are seeing slow, subtle changes in Bethel Park. We are updating or outright changing the cornerstones and keystones of our curriculum. We are investing heavily in the infrastructure of the schools. We recognize the value and importance of a great teacher in every classroom. We want to ensure the student experience is personalized and fulfilling. We are maximizing the investment the community makes in the district. We are letting go of old ways and rolling out some new ways. In a sense, we are scraping the barnacles off the ship that have accumulated over the years and have been slowing our momentum. At the same time, we are putting a new, innovative, and relevant finish on the hull. We will be ‘best in class.’

While we are pleased and proud of this progress, no matter how small it looks from 10,000 feet, we can see the change in Bethel Park. Thank you for your willingness and support. Thank you for letting go of how things have always been done in favor of how things should be done in 2023. Thank you for supporting these efforts, your commitment to being “best in class” in every way, and your patience while this big ship turns toward the north star. I also extend the same appreciation to our faculty and administrators for doing the work and believing in us.

## A Message From...

# BARRY CHRISTENSON

## School Board President



Our school district’s communication often centers around curricular and academic achievements, which can sometimes imply a bias towards college-bound students. With Labor Day just around the corner, I thought this edition of Chronicles would be the perfect opportunity to discuss our commitment to vocational education and our partnerships with several area career & technology centers.

In today’s rapidly evolving job market, there is a growing demand for professionals in skilled trades, healthcare, culinary, automotive and many other industry segments. While a college education is a great path for many, it’s imperative that Bethel Park High School students understand that they have options that can lead to a successful and fulfilling career through other paths. We provide those options as a supporting member of several area vocational training institutions including Parkway West Career and Technology Center (*Oakdale*), the Western Area Career & Technology Center (*Canonsburg*), the Mon Valley Career and Technology Center (*Monongahela*) and the Steel Center for Career and Technical Education (*Jefferson Hills*).

Of the 100 or so Bethel Park High School students who also attend a Career & Technology Center, the vast majority of those students attend Steel Center CTE, which offers comprehensive training in various industry trades.

One of the significant advantages of attending a career & technical education center is the opportunity for hands-on learning. Rather than just sitting in a classroom, students engage in practical training that equips them with real-world skills. Through state-of-the-art facilities and modern equipment, these schools provide a dynamic learning environment where students gain valuable experience in fields such as automotive technology, construction trades, precision machining, healthcare, cosmetology, culinary and more. This hands-on approach allows students to develop the necessary skills and confidence to excel in their chosen trades.

Steel Center, in particular, offers a comprehensive curriculum tailored to meet the demands of various skilled trades industries. Students receive specialized training and instruction from experienced professionals who bring their expertise to the classroom. The curriculum covers a wide range of subjects, including technical skills, safety protocols, industry regulations, and emerging technologies. By aligning the coursework with industry requirements, Steel Center ensures that students are well-prepared to meet the challenges of the workforce.

This targeted education equips students with a competitive edge, making them highly desirable to potential employers in the skilled trades sector. Attending a vocational school significantly increases the chances of securing employment upon graduation. The school has a remarkable track record of high job placement rates, thanks to its strong connections with local industries and employers.

We are proud to provide our students career options with high demand, job security, lucrative salaries, practical education, career satisfaction, and entrepreneurial opportunities. I encourage any student who is undecided in their career selection to consider programs that the Bethel Park School District offers through Steel Center and our other career & technology centers.

# A Grateful Farewell to Bethel Park Community

by: Dr. Zeb Jansante

## Dear Esteemed Members of the Bethel Park School District Community,

I hope this message finds you all in good health and high spirits. As I bid farewell to my role as former high school principal and current assistant superintendent, I wanted to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to each and every one of you as I close out my 40 years of working in education.



Over the past 17 years, this community district has been my home away from home, and it has been an honor and privilege to serve alongside such dedicated individuals. In addition, for the past 32 years, I have lived in Bethel Park. The heart and soul of any educational institution lie in the collaborative efforts of its staff, custodians, bus drivers, maintenance workers, secretaries, teachers, police, security, paraprofessionals, and administrators, parents, coaches, and of course, our incredible students.

To the staff, you have been the backbone of this great institution, providing unwavering support and guidance to students and colleagues. Your commitment to excellence and tireless efforts have made Bethel Park a truly remarkable place of learning.

To the custodians and maintenance team, your hard work often goes unnoticed, but without your meticulous attention to detail, our schools would not be the clean and safe spaces they are. Your dedication ensures an environment conducive to growth and achievement.

To the secretaries/administrative assistants, you are the friendly faces that greet us daily, the voices on the other end of the phone, and the organizers of countless administrative tasks. Your efficiency, warmth, and expertise have made our interactions seamless and stress-free.

To the teachers and paraprofessionals, you are the heart and soul of our educational system. Through your passion, knowledge, and unwavering commitment, you have shaped the minds of countless students, equipping them with the tools to navigate the world and pursue their dreams.

To my fellow administrators, it has been an absolute pleasure working alongside you. Your wisdom, collaboration, and shared vision have united our leadership team, guiding our schools toward success.

Your trust, support, and active involvement in your children's education have been invaluable to the parents and guardians. The partnership between home and school is critical, and your dedication to your child's academic journey has made a significant impact.

Lastly, to the students, you are the reason we are all here. Your curiosity, creativity, and resilience have inspired us day in and day out. Witnessing your growth and accomplishments has been the most rewarding part of my career, and I have no doubt you will continue to flourish as you embark on the next chapter of your life. Finally, those who have left the halls of Bethel Park and are out doing great things, please remember that you are a "Black Hawk" forever, and I thank you for continuing the great work that was founded while you were a student with us.

As I move on to new endeavors, I carry cherished memories and a profound appreciation for the Bethel Park community. We have built an exceptional educational community that fosters growth, nurtures talent, and embraces diversity.

Thank you, once again, for your unwavering support, collaboration, and trust. It has been an honor to serve you, and I am eternally grateful for our shared memories.

Wishing you all continued success and happiness in the years to come.

## Bethel Park Names Korcinsky Assistant Superintendent

Bethel Park School District recently announced hiring **Dr. Mark A. Korcinsky** as its new Superintendent for Facilities and Operations. In addition to overseeing the school district's transportation and maintenance and facilities departments, Dr. Korcinsky will also serve as the district's point person for the renovation of Independence Middle School and the construction of the new elementary school, scheduled for completion in 2026.

An experienced educational leader, Dr. Korcinsky has served as a teacher, coach, administrator, and student advocate. The Brighton Township resident is a member of the Beaver Area School District Board of School Directors.

For the past two years, Dr. Korcinsky has been an assistant principal at Bethel Park High School and was a key team member that brought the high school its first-ever National Blue Ribbon Award. Before joining Bethel Park, Dr. Korcinsky spent decades in the Baltimore County (MD), Beaver Area, Springdale Area, Hopewell Area, and Seneca Valley School Districts, serving in various roles.

During his 13-year tenure as the Seneca Valley Senior High School principal, Dr. Korcinsky oversaw significant growth both educationally and from a facilities and operations standpoint. He was part of a team that helped transform Seneca Valley from a struggling school district into one of the highest-performing school districts in Western Pennsylvania.

Dr. Korcinsky also honorably served and is retired from the US Army/Army Reserve, serving in leadership positions ranging from Commander, Executive Officer, Aide de Camp, and Special Projects Officer across the globe within the Medical Service Corps and Corps of Engineers.

Bethel Park School District Superintendent **Dr. James Walsh** said Dr. Korcinsky's experience in both education and logistics made him a well-suited candidate for his new role.

"As we continue to invest in our infrastructure and improve our operating systems, Dr. Korcinsky's background in the military's massive operations, coupled with his experience as an administrator overseeing a construction project, make him the ideal person to lead the operations of the district at this critical time for Bethel Park," said Dr. Walsh.

Dr. Korcinsky earned his Bachelor's in Biology and Secondary Education Certification from Mercyhurst University. He went on to earn a Master's Degree in Educational Administration and Leadership as well as a Principal's Certification from the Franciscan University of Steubenville. Furthering his education, he earned a Superintendent's Letter of Eligibility from Westminster College and a Doctorate of Education from Point Park University.

Advocating for students, educators, and parents/guardians, Dr. Korcinsky served thirteen years at the local, state, and federal levels as a PA State Advocate for the Pennsylvania Principals Association and the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

The married father of two resides in Brighton Township with his wife, **Nancy**, and their two sons. He has been active in the community as a volunteer coach for youth sports, shade tree commission member, and cub scout team leader, as well as booster and community organizations.

Dr. Korcinsky succeeds **Dr. Zeb Jansante**, who retired at the end of the school year.



## SIGN UP FOR OUR WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Send an email along with your name, relationship to the school district, and your email address to: [cromie.james@bphawks.org](mailto:cromie.james@bphawks.org).

- Please put *Email Newsletter* in the subject line



## Free and Reduced Meals

The Bethel Park School District participates in the National School Lunch Program and offers Free/Reduced Price School Meals to those who qualify. Applications for the 2023-2024 school year are available on the Food Services page of the website or they can be picked up at the Administration Building. Please be advised that even if your child(ren) qualified for Free/Reduced meals in previous years, you still must reapply for the upcoming school year. For questions about the forms and to learn more about the confidentiality of the process for your child, please call the district's program liaison, **Dana Walker**, at 412-854-8426 or email her at [walker.dana@bphawks.org](mailto:walker.dana@bphawks.org).

## Bethel Park Cafeterias Earns Praise from ACHD

Bethel Park School District's cafeterias were recently recognized by the Allegheny County Health Department for exceptional sanitation and food handling practices during the department's unannounced inspections.

## Cafeteria Prices for the 2023-2024 School Year

Rising food costs have impacted restaurants, households—and schools, too. School cafeterias across the country are battling soaring inflation, staffing shortages, and supply chain disruptions, forcing many of the nation's school districts, including Bethel Park, to wrestle with the idea of raising their prices as students head back to classrooms this fall.

Bethel Park will not raise prices on its base meals, but there will be a \$0.20 across-the-board increase on tiered lunches, which are considered enhanced meals and include things like deli sandwiches, chicken wings, and other made-to-order type meals that require individual preparation. The cost of a tiered meal will now cost one dollar more than a standard school lunch.



The cafeteria prices for the 2023-2024 school year are as follows:

- Elementary--\$2.75
- Middle School--\$2.90
- High School--\$3.05
- Elementary Tiered--\$3.75
- NAMS/IMS Tiered -- \$3.90
- BPHS Tiered--\$4.05

In the spring, the commonwealth made headlines by including the Free Breakfast Initiative in the state budget. That program would guarantee free breakfasts for all students, regardless of their socioeconomic status. Still, at press time, that measure had yet to be officially voted on, making the timetable for its implementation impossible to forecast at this time.

Breakfast will be served at all Bethel Park schools for \$1.95. Parents/guardians can place money in their account for their child's meals and track their child's purchases via the QSP Program, available in all Bethel Park cafeterias.

To learn more about QSP and PayForIt.net, visit our website under Food Services. The cafeteria operates under a cashless system to help students move through the cashier line more quickly. Students who pay for their meals with cash will not receive change. Any change will be deposited into their QSP account.

Forms for free/reduced meals can be accessed on our Food Services page. They can also be picked up at the district's Business Office in the Administration Building. Families must reapply annually to the federal program.

Welcome Back to School!



## 2023-2024 School Year-at-a-Glance

The 2023-2024 school year will begin on **Thursday, Aug. 24, 2023**, and end on **Tuesday, June 4, 2024**. The outdoor graduation ceremony is scheduled at Black Hawk Stadium at 7 p.m. on **Thursday, June 6**.

Some major highlights include:

### AUGUST

- 18 New Teacher Induction
- 21 Staff Development Day
- 22 Staff Development Day
- 23 Room Preparation Day
- 24 Classes Begin for the 2023-2024 School Year

### SEPTEMBER

- 4 Labor Day (*No Classes*)

### OCTOBER

- 27 First Academic Quarter Ends
- 30 Records Day (*No Classes*)

### NOVEMBER

- 1 Act 80 Day (*2-Hour Delay*)
- 7 Staff Development Day (*No Classes*) K-4 Conference Day
- 23-27 Fall Break (*No Classes*)

### DECEMBER

- 25-29 Winter Break (*No Classes*)

### JANUARY

- 1 Winter Break (*No Classes*)
- 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day/Staff Development Day (*No Classes*)
- 16 Second Academic Quarter Ends
- 22 Records Day (*No Classes*)
- 29 Act 80 Day (*2-Hour Delay*)

### FEBRUARY

- 19 Presidents' Day (*No Classes*)
- 20 Staff Development Day (*No Classes*)

### MARCH

- 25 Third Academic Quarter Ends
- 28-29 Spring Break (*No Classes*)

### APRIL

- 1 Spring Break (*No Classes*)
- 2 Records Day (*No Classes*)

### MAY

- 9 Act 80 Day (*2-Hour Delay*)
- 14 Staff Development Day (*No Classes*)
- 27 Memorial Day (*No Classes*)

### JUNE

- 4 Final Day of Classes/Final Academic Quarter Ends
- 5 Records Day
- 6 BPHS Class of '24 Commencement (*Rain Date: 6/7 or 6/8*)

### MAKE-UP DATES (IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER):

January 15, February 20, June 5, June 6, and Remote Learning option (not necessarily in this order)

Schedule event times and dates occasionally change during the school year. For the most current Bethel Park School District events information, please consult our Events Calendar at [www.bpsd.org](http://www.bpsd.org).



## Volunteer Requirements

The Bethel Park School District encourages the involvement of parents and guardians in our schools. Pennsylvania State Law requires that EVERY volunteer with direct contact with students must have the necessary clearances on file with the school district. The required clearances are the Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance (*Act 151*), Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Record Check (*Act 34*), and the FBI Federal Criminal History Record (*Act 114*). PA Clearances are free to volunteers, and the FBI Clearance is \$23.25. Volunteers who have resided in Pennsylvania for **THE ENTIRETY OF THE PAST 10 YEARS** and have never been convicted of a Disqualifying Offense can sign a waiver that would eliminate the need for FBI Clearance.

No one will be permitted to volunteer in our schools until they have successfully submitted the following information, all of which can be found on our website, [www.bpsd.org](http://www.bpsd.org):

1. Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance (*Act 151*)
  2. Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Record Check (*Act 34*)
  3. FBI Federal Criminal History Record (*Act 114*); OR Waiver of the FBI Clearance
  4. Signed Acknowledgement of Volunteer Obligations Form
  5. Current Pennsylvania Driver's License (*and temporary card if you have recently moved*)
  6. Current Photo for the ID Badge
  7. Complete Google Form Titled: Qualified Volunteer Clearance ID Information
  8. Read Policy 824: Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries
- Items Nos. 1-6 can be emailed to [gregg.marybeth@bphawks.org](mailto:gregg.marybeth@bphawks.org). Item No. 7 can be submitted electronically directly from the website. Item No. 8 can also be found on our website. You will receive an email informing you that your information has been received and your volunteer card has been processed. That card will be sent to your child's school.

Once volunteers have satisfied all the requirements listed above, they will be issued a Qualified Volunteer ID Card that must be worn every time they volunteer in our schools or with Bethel Park students on a field trip or other outings, not on school property. To learn more about what individuals must do to volunteer in our schools successfully, please visit the Volunteer Clearances section of our website.

## Procedures for Administering Medication at School

Parents and legal guardians should ask the doctor to schedule medication doses other than during school hours. When this is not possible, the school will cooperate with

parents/guardians to see that the medication is given as prescribed.

Suppose your student needs to have medications (*prescription or over-the-counter*) administered at school. In that case, the following criteria must be met:

A physician order including a signature from the physician and the parent or guardian.

All prescription medications must be in a pharmacy-labeled container that must include the name and phone number of the pharmacy, the name of the student, the physician's name, the name of the medication, the currently prescribed dose, the time of administration, and the RX number.

All "over-the-counter" medications must be in the original manufacturer's container with the student's name written on the container.

Prescription medication in a pharmacy label container dated within the last two weeks and to be administered for **NO MORE THAN 10 SCHOOL DAYS** require a parent's/guardian's signature and a completed medication form.

Medication prescribed for longer than two weeks also requires a physician's signature.

Only a 30-day supply of medication will be accepted.

**ALL MEDICATIONS MUST BE DROPPED AT THE HEALTH OFFICE BY A PARENT/GUARDIAN. THE PARENT/GUARDIAN WILL ALSO HAVE TO COUNT THE MEDICATIONS WITH THE NURSE.**



## Bethel Park School District Celebrates Recent Retirees

In June, the district held its annual farewell luncheon for those who retired from the school district during the 2022-2023 school year.

Each year, Bethel Park School District bids farewell and happy retirement to some members of its faculty and staff. Through their diligent and skillful work, our retiring employees have enriched the lives of our students and their colleagues and have directly contributed to Bethel Park's success.

This year, BPSD had 36 retirees, including three administrative, seven professional, and 26 support staff employees. Together they represented more than 771 years of expertise and experience.

Those honored at this year's luncheon included:

- **Kathy Bower**, Special Education Paraprofessional – 29 Years of Service
- **June Dolan**, Special Education Paraprofessional – 23 Years of Service
- **Margaret Girdano**, Special Education Paraprofessional – 23 Years of Service
- **Mary Jo Hartman**, Special Education Paraprofessional – 20 Years of Service
- **Marian Irwin**, Teacher – 28 Years of Service
- **Michael Jackson**, School Bus Driver – 16 Years of Service
- **Maria Macchione**, School Bus Driver – 5 Years of Service
- **Christine Schipani**, Teacher – 33 Years of Service
- **Nancy Sigmund**, Special Education Paraprofessional – 24 Years of Service
- **George Spalaris**, Assistant Principal – 24 Years of Service
- **Kriss Strotz**, Teacher – 21 Years of Service
- **Scott Ziehler**, Transportation Director – 16 Years of Service

The other district retirees included:

- **William Balsis**, School Bus Driver – 6 Years of Service
- **Toinette Blair**, Special Education Paraprofessional – 11 Years of Service
- **Linda Bove**, Special Education Paraprofessional – 23 Years of Service
- **Raymond Campbell**, Custodian – 24 Years of Service
- **Dari Durigon**, Teacher – 29 Years of Service
- **Mark Hruska**, Teacher – 30 Years of Service
- **Paula Hurka**, Special Education Paraprofessional – 22 Years of Service
- **Diane Jacobson**, Special Education Paraprofessional – 24 Years of Service
- **Dr. Zeb Jansante**, Assistant Superintendent – 17 Years of Service
- **Elaine Litwin**, Special Education Paraprofessional – 16 Years of Service
- **Helen March**, Administrative Assistant – 21 Years of Service
- **Beth Mellott**, Instructional Aide – 21 Years of Service
- **Christopher Nagel**, Teacher – 30 Years of Service
- **Jean Palombo**, Special Education Paraprofessional – 23 Years of Service
- **Robert Pasko**, Facilities – 15 Years of Service
- **Lynn Ryan**, Special Education Paraprofessional – 20 Years of Service
- **Donna Salicce**, School Nurse – 11 Years of Service
- **Anna Scott**, Special Education Paraprofessional – 20 Years of Service
- **Doris Sharkey**, School Bus Aide – 11 Years of Service
- **Mary Sirianni**, Special Education Paraprofessional – 22 Years of Service
- **Glenn Solomon**, Facilities – 29 Years of Service
- **Janet Sterrett**, Computer Paraprofessional – 35 Years of Service
- **Jennifer Yost**, Special Education Paraprofessional – 22 Years of Service
- **Dr. Charles Youngs**, Teacher – 27 Years of Service



*Congratulations and best wishes to our latest crop of retirees. We are grateful for your mentorship, friendship, and your service.*

# Bethel Park Launches New School-to-Home Communication Platform

Bethel Park School District has launched ParentSquare—a simple and unified school-to-home communication platform—to reach and engage every family, helping ensure all parents/guardians have the opportunity to participate in their children’s education actively. ParentSquare is now available for staff and parents/guardians to use on their computers or mobile devices. It replaces School Messenger, the school district’s primary school-to-home communication platform for more than 15 years.

ParentSquare provides a seamless experience for parents/guardians and staff by unifying multiple tools into one communications app and service. Parents and guardians could eventually be able to keep track of news, activities, and events from all their children’s schools in one place.

Bethel Park School District hopes ParentSquare’s intuitive, two-way platform will foster greater communication and family involvement. School staff and parents/guardians can engage in both one-to-one and group messaging with real-time language translation for families who need it.

“Effective school-to-home communication has never been more important, which is why Bethel Park adopted the ParentSquare communication platform. We’re looking forward to reaching 100% of our families no matter where they are, eventually unifying all our communications tools, and adopting a more eco-friendly approach by reducing the amount of paper used to send important communications,” said **James Cromie**, the school’s communication director.

The district’s partnership with ParentSquare will enable stronger engagement between school and home and help empower everyone within the school community to stay connected and informed. For more information on ParentSquare, please visit [www.parentsquare.com](http://www.parentsquare.com).

## Bethel Park Celebrates Arts Fest and STEAM Expo

In May, Bethel Park School District held its annual hands-on celebration of creativity and innovation as part of the Arts Fest and STEAM Expo at Bethel Park High School.

The event was a part of Remake Learning Days. Student artwork created at nearly all grade levels lined the halls and filled the Bethel Park High School cafeteria. In addition to the beautiful artwork, which included two-dimensional and three-dimensional pieces, students also led various interactive activities at stations throughout the building. The family-friendly event also featured live music, plenty of arts and crafts, treats, raffles, and other fair-themed activities for everyone to enjoy.



“This event gives our students a chance to showcase their work, and it demonstrates to the community the level of art education the children of Bethel Park are receiving daily,” said high school art teacher **Mr. Kent Wallisch**.

## Bethel Park Embraces New Look for its Website

In the coming weeks, you will no doubt notice a new look and feel on the Bethel Park School District website. In August, we plan to launch our new Edlio website at [www.bpsd.org](http://www.bpsd.org)! This website is built for easy access to important information and updates, whether you’re on a computer, a tablet or your smartphone. Some other exciting new features you’ll want to check out include:

- Prominent homepage quick links to our most essential pages
- Easy access to the information you need with a reorganized menu
- An up-to-date News feed with quick information and links to in-depth posts
- Calendars for schools, athletics, and our entire Bethel Park school community that parents/guardians can subscribe to, so you’ll never miss an event
- Built-in social media feeds to stay up-to-date on all things Bethel Park

If you have any questions or feedback about our new website, please let us know! We hope you love our new website as much as we do.

## Bethel Park Education Foundation

The Bethel Park Education Foundation closed out another great year of supporting excellence and innovation in our schools in 2022-2023. Five grants were awarded last school year, totaling over \$10,000.

- **Mrs. Lisa Cusick** was awarded \$1,500 to furnish and supply the new Therapeutic, Emotional support, Avoidance Monitoring, and Support (*T.E.A.M.S.*) room at the high school with sensory materials, furniture, and décor to create a welcoming and calming space. These funds support the *T.E.A.M.S.* initiative being implemented there.
- **Mrs. K.D. Meucci** was awarded \$498 to pilot an “in-classroom” *T.E.A.M.S.* space like the high school space, except it would be in the regular elementary classroom.
- Independence Middle School’s music department, under the auspices of **Mr. Keith Born**, was awarded \$5,763.30 for implementing a pilot unit of guitar playing in the seventh grade general music program. All seventh grade students get to participate in this program.
- **Mrs. Patricia Heasley**, Department Facilitator, and the school district librarians were awarded a \$1,200 matching grant to supply the libraries with social and emotional learning (*S.E.L.*) books. *S.E.L.* refers to the process of learning and applying the skills of self-awareness, self-management, social skills, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making.
- **Mr. Tom Kelton**, the technology education teacher at Pathfinder School, was awarded \$1,250 for purchasing new household power tools and lawn maintenance equipment. His project supports the life skills students’ home repair and maintenance skills development.

Funding for these awards comes from donations, such as \$1,000 from the BPHS Class of 1971 and from the annual “Fantastic Four” charities golf outing in the fall. The BPEF seeks to support programs that promote high-quality educational experiences. You can learn more about the foundation at <https://www.bethelparkfoundation.com>.



# District Recognized for its Outstanding Music Education Program

The Bethel Park School District has once again received the “Best Communities for Music Education” designation by the NAMM (*National Association of Music Merchants*) Foundation for its commitment to music education. Now in its 24th year, the Best Communities for Music Education recognition is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in providing music access and education to all students. To earn this recognition, the school district submitted data about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program, and community music-making programs. The Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas then reviewed that information.

“We are so proud of this honor. This recognition is most welcomed and very affirming for Bethel Park,” said Superintendent **Dr. James Walsh**. “The entire department has maintained high standards of excellence for the music program, evident in every magnificent student performance and by accolades like this NAMM recognition. The faculty deserve a standing ovation for another year of excellence.”

The Bethel Park School District is one of just 830 school districts nationwide to receive the Best Communities for Music Education distinction.

Music is a central tenet of the district’s whole-child educational approach in Bethel Park. Beginning at the elementary level and continuing through high school, students can explore their creativity, work collaboratively with peers, and build upon skills needed in all facets of education.

Bethel Park students can participate in elective instrumental music programs, such as band and strings, beginning in fourth grade.



The period represented by grades 5-8 is especially critical in students’ musical development. The music they perform or study often becomes integral to their personal music repertoire. Composing and improvising provide students with unique insight into the form and structure of music and, at the same time, help them to develop their creativity. Broad experience with various music is necessary if students are to make informed judgments. Similarly, this background breadth enables them to understand the connections and relationships between music and other disciplines. By understanding the cultural and historical forces that shape social attitudes and behaviors, students are better prepared to live and work in increasingly multicultural communities. Music’s role in students’ lives depends mainly on their skills in creating, performing, and listening to music.

All Bethel Park students at Neil Armstrong and Independence Middle Schools (*grades 5-8*) can sing in the choir or play in the school’s orchestra or band. Middle-level students continue participating in a required general music curriculum meeting these objectives. Fifth through eighth grade students also have the option to continue to pursue musical studies within the Orchestra or Band.

At Bethel Park High School, the music education choices continue to expand. Students can take music electives, such as Music Technology, Songwriting, or AP Music Theory, in addition to performing ensembles such as Orchestra, Band, or Choir, including auditioned groups such as Top 21, Symphonic Band and Chamber Orchestra.

The NAMM Foundation is a nonprofit supported partly by the National Association of Music Merchants and its 15,000 member companies and individual professionals. The foundation advances active participation in music-making across the lifespan by supporting scientific research, philanthropic giving, and public service programs.



## Davis Officially a BPHS Alumna

In a small ceremony held in May at Bethel Park School District’s central administration building, **Anne Davis** became the latest member of the Bethel Park High School Class of 1980 when she was granted an honorary diploma by the Bethel Park school board as part of a program called, “Operation Recognition.”

Davis actually attended Burgettstown Jr./Sr. High School from 1976-78, but dropped out of school to care for her ailing mother.

Anne would later go on to establish *Horses with Hope*. This local organization focuses on improving the lives of children, youth, and adults, assisting them in reaching beyond their abilities, and allowing daily success and milestones to be accomplished by the partnership developed by horse and rider.

Earlier this year, Davis’s brother, **Justin Laboon**, nominated her for the Operation Recognition honorary diploma program. After hearing her story, the school board agreed that Anne was an ideal candidate for it.

According to Bethel Park Superintendent **Dr. James Walsh**, who presided over the ceremony, Anne’s story represents the best of Bethel Park.

“Overcoming difficult challenges as a young person, facing the world alone, required incredible courage, resilience, and mountains of hope,” he said. “And now, looking back, those qualities secured her journey and led to acts of sacrifice, compassion, and mentorship, which have put her on a rare level of distinction and have inspired our entire community.”



## NOW HIRING!

Join the Bethel Park School District team as a **BUS DRIVER** or **BUS AIDE** and enjoy the benefits of being a Pennsylvania School District employee.

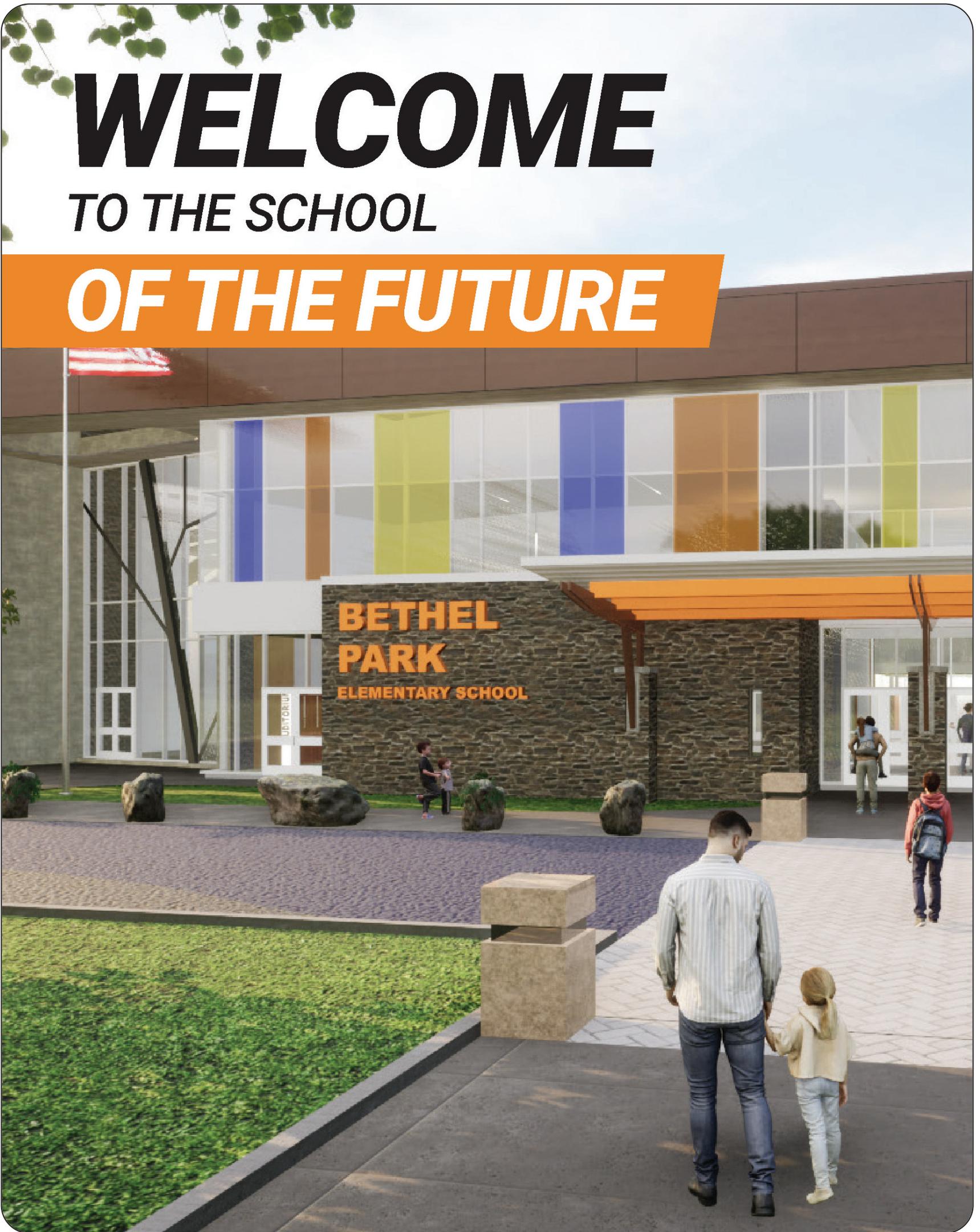
Visit [www.bpsd.org](http://www.bpsd.org) for more information.



# WELCOME

TO THE SCHOOL

OF THE FUTURE



# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECT

*The new Bethel Park Elementary School will be a 3-story building with 280,000 square feet neatly built into the hillside of the Neil Armstrong campus.*



- Grade levels are housed on each floor. Kindergarten and first grade occupy the ground floor. Second and third grade occupy the middle floor, which is the main floor, and the fourth and fifth grade are on the top floor. All the shared spaces, like the cafeteria and L.G.I. are on the main floor.



- Facilities are designed with intentional distinctions between primary and intermediate-aged students. For instance, there is a K-2 playground, with age-appropriate equipment and a 3-5 playground with age-appropriate equipment. There are separate gym facilities, too: a main gym and a "slim" gym.



- There will be two libraries, one is an early literacy center for emerging readers and the other is a main library with integrated technologies and an outdoor patio.
- There will be three S.T.E.A.M. labs for this type of technology-infused, multi-disciplinary curriculum.
- The building will also feature a Large Group Instruction space with a stage / performance space and seating for over 300 students.



- The building has enhanced security systems and intentional features designed with safety in mind.
- There are fully equipped health room facilities and health staff on each floor of the building.

# children's museum™

pittsburgh

**We are extremely pleased to be partnering with the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh for this elementary project.**

Their 40-year history and expertise with engaging learning spaces has enriched our designs for the new school beyond our expectations. Senior Director of Educational Experiences, **Anne Fullenkamp**, is an architect by training but thinks like an educator. She masterfully added creative and engaging aspects to the building design, as well as forcing us to think differently about the ordinary, such as the potential use of nooks and normally unused spaces, walls, and views. We are confident our building will be much more engaging and useful for students and staff.



## More About The New Bethel Park Elementary School

The infrastructure of the Bethel Park School District has been under evaluation for the past two-plus years. During this time, we obtained a demographer's study of our school age population and commissioned a feasibility study from an architectural firm to provide informed direction for the Bethel Park school board to steer their short- and long-term decision making for the future of Bethel Park School District. The driving questions were:

- 1** What do we need to do to our facilities to deliver a "best in class" 21st century education in a safe, functional, and stimulating learning environments for the students and the teachers?
- 2** How do we achieve more equity within the students' educational experience, especially in Grades K through 4 and within the special education program?
- 3** To what do we need to attend in order to increase school and campus safety and security?

The direction we received from the studies, the surveys and a strategic planning steering committee was quite clear: our five elementary buildings and two middle schools are aging, out-of-date in this 21st century learning environment, limited by their size and footprint, and need significant renovations to last another 20+ years.

The price tag on all this work was estimated in 2021 dollars to be over \$150 million, \$42 of which would take care of the much-needed work at Independence Middle School, work we started in May of last year. The rest would renovate NAMS and the five elementary schools. Alternatively, we could spend the same dollars for a new, modern, safe, and sophisticated building for less than the cost of the renovations to 50-, 60- and 70-year-old buildings.

It was clear to the board, as the good stewards of the taxpayers' investments, the district needs to do the most fiscally responsible thing today and for long term by consolidating the Kindergarten through fifth grade students into one new school. The Neil Armstrong campus off of Murray Road was deemed the best site for this new building.

We gave our design team four broad goals to guide the overall design:

- 1** We desire a modern, safe, sophisticated, and stimulating learning environment that will accommodate our evolving educational program and our need for equity within the students' educational experience, especially with class size and in the special education program.
- 2** The building will maximize school and campus safety and security.
- 3** The project will minimize disruption during construction, that is, allow NAMS & the elementary schools to remain in operation.
- 4** The project will maximize the utilization of the NAMS site & maintain as much open greenspace as possible, working it into the educational program, if possible.

We readily acknowledge the major change this will make to the community, but we also believe this is the best investment we can make for our children today and for the next 50 years. This truly is the school that prepare our students today for the future.

# LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

## At Bethel Park School District



### SUMMER2023

- The plans for the new elementary school will be finalized and approved by the school board.



### FALL2023

- Bethel Park Elementary School project goes out to bid.
- Contracts are awarded by October.
- Construction begins by Thanksgiving.
- Construction continues at Independence Middle School for another 14 months.



### WINTER2024

- Phase two of the renovations at Independence Middle School is complete.
- Construction continues on the new elementary school for eighteen more months.



### SUMMER2026

- Construction of the new elementary school is substantially complete.
- Students move into the new elementary school and 6th grade moves into Independence Middle School.



**THE NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IS JUST ONE OF THE MANY PROJECTS HAPPENING IN OUR DISTRICT.**

Check out the rest at [bpsdBestInClass.org](https://bpsdBestInClass.org)

## Bethel Park's Senior Awards Night 2023



Bethel Park High School held its annual Awards & Recognition Program to recognize those students who earned scholarships or received awards for academic and athletic achievement.

During the program, representatives from several local organizations and institutions were on-hand to personally present awards to the following students:

- Judge Arnoni Leadership in Action Scholarship Award (\$1,000): **Lauren Heh**
- Bethel Park Community Foundation (BPCF), Kramer Family Scholarship (\$500): **Ian Guarino, Hailey Lisak and Martina Tatalias**
- BPCF, John Deans Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000): **Meghan Tischler**
- BPCF, American Legion Post 760, Phil Ward Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000): **Lydia Blum**
- BPCF, Scott Beynon Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000): **Benjamin Smith**
- BPCF, Cynthia Buckley Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000): **Meghan Tischler**
- BPCF, Frank L.P. Edwards Scholarship (\$1,000): **Ian Guarino**
- BPCF, Jugo-Slav Club Scholarship (\$500): **Evan LeJeune, Ian Guarino, Jeremy Blocklin and Mitchell Gramm**
- BPCF, Bethel Park Volunteer Scholarship (\$1,000): **Melina Stewart**
- BPCF, Bethel Park Intern Scholarship (\$1,000): **Martina Tatalias**
- Abraham Lincoln Elementary School PTO Scholarship (\$500): **Sophia Nath and Cody Hendrych-Bondra**
- William Penn Elementary School, Rosemary Gainar Scholarship (\$1,000): **Carter Kicinski**
- Lisa Simpson Memorial Scholarship (\$4,000): **Kristen Horgan**
- Bethel Park Lions Club Scholarship (\$2,500): **Kayla Bowman**
- Bethel Park Women's Club Scholarship (\$3,000): **Tatiana Foote and Ian Guarino**
- Bethel Bakery Scholarship: **Cecelia Schein**
- Rotary Club of Bethel Park (Lunch), Robert Brindley Memorial Scholarship (\$3,000): **Meghan Tischler**
- Blue Sky Closing Services Scholarship (\$1,000): **Diksha Adhikari**
- Lois Johnson Learning Child Care (\$1,000): **Emily Ashton, Hannah Luntz, Allison Morgan and Gabrielle Shogan**
- Rotary Club of Upper St. Clair-Bethel Park (Breakfast), Service Above Self Award (\$1,000): **Lydia Blum**
- Ken Waldie Memorial Scholarship (\$14,000): **Lucas Varley**

## Heh Recognized by Special Olympics Pennsylvania

In a May ceremony held at the school, Bethel Park High School student-athlete, **Lauren Heh** signed a non-binding commitment letter pledging to continue to support Special Olympics Pennsylvania beyond her high school career.

Heh was joined at the ceremony by nine other high school seniors from six area schools.

Lauren, who will attend the University of Pittsburgh in the fall, has been a standout soccer player and track and field athlete for BPHS. She was also a key contributor for the South Division championship unified indoor bocce team.

The new initiative seeks to bridge the gap between the Unified Champion Schools and Community Special Olympics. The goal is to encourage young people who participate in UCS Sports to continue with the Special Olympics after they have graduated.



- Elk County, PA Community Foundation, McGrady Family Scholarship (\$1,250): **Lenny DeMartino**
- National Honor Society Scholarship (\$1,250): **Lauren Heh**
- George Washington Elementary School PTO Scholarship (\$500): **Mira Weston**
- Benjamin Franklin Elementary School PTO Scholarship (\$1,000): **Abigail Winterhalter**
- Bethel Park Federation of Teachers Scholarship (\$2,000): **Jason Nuttridge and Dylan Finnell**
- Sydney Romanus Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000): **Kiersten Elkins**
- Irene Uhrig Memorial Scholarship (\$1,500): **Diksha Adhikari and Melina Stewart**
- National Math & Science Initiative (NMSI) Star Awards (\$500): **Dewash Adhikari, Bryca Clancy, Henry Gaston, Cameron Hannay, Lucas Hertzler, Lupe McElvenny, Anna Minick, Megan Seaman and Mira Weston**

The following students were also recognized during the program:

- Unified Indoor Bocce: **Molly Mathias, Olivia Kitchen, Gianna Rich, Julia Gobbie, Bennet Nelis, Lauren Heh, Draven Kennedy, Logan Burke, Leah Manfrici, Alyssa Headley, Charlie Metzler and Julia Miller**
- Hometown High Q: **Jesse Lester, Grace Skalniak and Jeon Varghese**
- Brown University Book Award: **Henry Gaston**
- Princeton Book Award: **Emma Smith**
- Harvard Prize Book Award: **Lucas Hertzler**
- WPIAL Scholar Athlete: **Lauren Heh (Girls Soccer, Girls Track & Field and Unified Indoor Bocce) and Evan Holewinski (Baseball)**
- National Merit Scholarship: **Clara Moir, Katharine Tena, Jeon Varghese and Lucas Varley**
- Spirit Award: **Lauren Heh and Addison Hill**

Also, Mira Weston was recognized as the salutatorian, and Carter Kicinski was formally named the class valedictorian.

Congratulations to all students who were recognized at this wonderful annual event! The Bethel Park School District wishes you nothing but the best going forward.

## Shaw, Shughart Earn Generous ROTC Scholarships



In June, **Sergeant Matt Sunseri** from the Pennsylvania National Guard presented a pair of scholarship checks in the amount of \$168,456 each to Class of '23 members **Forest Shaw** and **Cole Shughart**.

The young men, who have been friends since attending Memorial Elementary School, won national scholarships based on outstanding academic performance, leadership traits, commitment to service, and extracurricular activities.

Shaw will attend the University of Pittsburgh in the fall, where he plans to study data science. Shughart is bound for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, where he will major in cybersecurity.

## Bethel Park's Kwiatkoski Signs with the Steelers

In June, the Steelers signed linebacker **Nick Kwiatkoski** following a minicamp tryout with the team.

Kwiatkoski was drafted by the Chicago Bears in the fourth round of the 2016 NFL Draft and played four seasons with the Bears (2016-19) before joining the Las Vegas Raiders for two seasons (2020-21).

Last year, he played for the Atlanta Falcons, where he was used mainly on special teams. He played in 12 games and finished with seven special teams tackles.

Kwiatkoski has played in 89 games, starting 34, and has 293 tackles, seven sacks, 12 passes defended, and two interceptions.

He is also a Pittsburgh native who played at Bethel Park High School '11 and was part of their 2008 WPIAL Championship team. He went to college at West Virginia University.

"I grew up a Steelers fan," said Kwiatkoski during the team's minicamp. "Bethel Park – I was obviously close. Awesome opportunity for me, and I am excited about it."



## District Holds 14th Annual College-Bound Student-Athlete Recognition

In June, the Black Hawks athletic department held its 14th Annual College-Bound Student Athlete Recognition Reception to honor 27 seniors who will continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level.



## Hawks Baseball's Historic Run Comes to an End in State Quarterfinals



*Baseball Run Ends*

Bethel Park's bid for a third consecutive state baseball championship came up short after the Black Hawks (18-6) dropped a hard-fought 3-1 decision to Monsignor Bonner-Prendergast (17-7), in the quarterfinal round of the PIAA Class 5A baseball playoffs.

Bonner-Prendie, as their followers call them, were led by **Kevin McGonigle**, Pennsylvania's Gatorade Player of the Year, who was selected with the 37th overall pick by the Detroit Tigers in the Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft. McGonigle drove in two of his team's three runs, including a double and a home run.

The Friars would bow out in the state semifinals to eventual state champion Shaler Area, which beat Bethel Park in the WPIAL Championship Game.

Bethel Park's nine consecutive state baseball

playoff wins is one of the longest postseason winning streaks in Pennsylvania high school baseball history.

According to the head coach **Patrick Zehnder**, his team's internal leadership played a big role in his team's success.

"This graduating class should be extremely proud of everything they've accomplished, which included two WPIAL silver medals and two consecutive PIAA gold medals," he said. That's more than many programs have in their entire history, and these guys did all that in just three years.

"I couldn't be any prouder or more appreciative of these young men and all they've accomplished," he said.

The student-athletes recognized included:

- **Raymond Altmeyer** (Baseball), Mercyhurst University
- **Eva Blatz** (Girls Soccer), University of Buffalo (NY)
- **Nicholas Calano** (Baseball), University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown
- **Austin Caye** (Football), Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- **John Chalus** (Baseball), Mercyhurst University
- **Dinari Clacks** (Football), Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- **Aidan Currie** (Football), California University of Pennsylvania
- **Elaine DeLallo** (Girls Volleyball), Thomas Jefferson University
- **Leonard DeMartino** (Boys Swimming & Diving), St. Louis University (MO)
- **Nicholas Gasper** (Baseball), St. Vincent College
- **Mia Gerber** (Girls Volleyball), Rochester Institute of Technology (NY)
- **Coby Goelz** (Football), Case Western Reserve University (OH)
- **Benjamin Guffey** (Boys Basketball), Bethany College
- **Jonathan Haddox** (Boys Golf), Westminster University
- **Evan Holewinski** (Baseball), Kent State University (OH)
- **Kristen Horgan** (Girls Soccer), University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown
- **Miles Jackson** (Boys Soccer), La Roche University
- **Grace Lejeck** (Rowing), Rutgers University (NJ)
- **Ashleigh Manns** (Girls Lacrosse), State University of New York at Fredonia
- **Gavin Moul** (Football), University of Delaware
- **Abigail Neal** (Rowing), University of Alabama
- **Jason Nuttridge** (Baseball), California University of Pennsylvania
- **Carly O'Mara** (Girls Lacrosse), Seton Hill University
- **Jack Reilly** (Football), California University of Pennsylvania
- **Kevin Sharp** (Baseball), St. Vincent College
- **Megan Tischler** (Girls Soccer), Grove City College
- **Nathan Vargo** (Baseball), University of Charleston (WV)

Congratulations to all of our college-bound student-athletes and good luck on the collegiate level!

## Bethel Park High School Hires Keith Walters as its Assistant Principal



Bethel Park High School appointed **Mr. Keith Walters** as the new Assistant Principal in May. Mr. Walters brings a wealth of experience in education, counseling, and leadership to this role. He joins

**Mr. James Fodse** as the school's two assistant principals.

Mr. Walters holds a Pennsylvania Instructional Certificate in Social Studies for Grades 7-12, obtained in July 2017. He also holds a Pennsylvania Educational Specialist Certificate in

Elementary and Secondary School Counseling for PK-12, obtained in March 2020. Mr. Walters is pursuing a Pennsylvania Administrative Principal PK-12 certification, expected to be completed in August 2023. He is currently a doctoral candidate at Drexel University, majoring in Educational Leadership and Management with an emphasis in Educational Policy, expected to graduate in 2024.

The Sikeston, MO native also has a Master of Science in Education from Duquesne University (2019) and a Bachelor of Science from Texas State University (2015).

Mr. Walters served as a School Counselor at Independence Middle School last school year, where he provided guidance and counseling services to students and parents/guardians, developed remediation plans, and managed student scheduling processes. Before coming to Bethel Park, he served as a School Counselor at Washington High School and Canon-McMillan High School, where he implemented comprehensive guidance and counseling programs, collaborated with administrators and instructional leaders, and played a key role in various student support initiatives.

Mr. Walters also has a distinguished United States Air Force background, serving from August 2000 to October 2012. During his military service, he held several roles, including Helicopter/Tilt Rotor Maintenance Technician, Flying Crew Chief, Helicopter Maintenance Quality Assurance Inspector, Helicopter Maintenance Field Training Detachment Instructor, and Data Integrity Management Team Leader. Mr. Walters received numerous awards and accolades for his outstanding contributions, including the Air Force Commendation Medal and the Air Force Achievement Medal.

Bethel Park High School Principal **Mr. Joseph Villani** believes that Walters will bring his extensive knowledge, leadership skills, and dedication to supporting his students' academic success and personal growth.

"We are all very excited to welcome Mr. Walters to the high school team," said Villani. "His military and educational background have shaped his work ethic and the commitment we anticipate him bringing to the position."

"Having also served as a school counselor and dean of students, we look forward to him adding great value to our staff and our students' high school experience," he said.

**BPHS  
CLASS OF  
2005**

20 YEAR REUNION

FALL 2025

IF INTERESTED

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## Quill & Scroll Society Inducts 16 New Members

Bethel Park High School recently inducted 16 students into its Chapter of Quill & Scroll, the International Honorary Society for High School Journalists in a ceremony held at the school.

Students receiving honors of Quill & Scroll membership included:

- Ben Cannon
- Clark Cekus
- Ryan Culhane
- Helena Gable
- Reilly Keen
- Jacob Kelly
- David Lindsey
- Luca Maracic
- Camryn Priddy
- Quilan Reynolds
- Markos Stark
- Kaelyn Ward
- Nicholas Whalen
- Elena Weirnik
- Allison Wolling
- Josh Zahniser



It's always a wonderful experience for students who have worked diligently on school publications media to be recognized for their work," said **Dr. Charles Youngs**, the retiring coordinator of the school's Quill & Scroll Chapter.

As part of the ceremony, journalism adviser **Mr. Brad Kszastowski** joined Dr. Youngs in offering their congratulatory remarks to student staff members of the high school's newspaper (*Hawk Eye*), yearbook (*Beacon*), video production studio (*BHTV*), and literary arts magazine (*Vernissage*), who have excelled in communications work during the past school year. Journalism teacher, **Mr. John Allemang** also helped plan the event.

The BPHS Chapter of Quill & Scroll was established in 1947. The local group builds upon the history of the international society, founded on April 10, 1926. It was then that a group of high school advisers organized the honorary to encourage and reward individual achievements in journalism and allied fields.

Since its organization, Quill & Scroll has granted charters in more than 13,350 high schools across the nation and around the world.

The new inductees participated in ceremonial candle lighting and recited descriptions of the eight principles of effective journalism. The initiates received membership pins, certificates, and a subscription to the Quill & Scroll online magazine.

According to Quill & Scroll's by-laws, members must be chosen from students enrolled in high school, Grades 10-12, who, at the time of their election, meet the following requirements: They must be a senior, junior or second-semester sophomore, be in the upper third of their class in general scholastic standing, have done superior work in some phase of school publications, and be recommended by their publication adviser.

## Hernandez Named Best Buddies Advisor of the Year

In May, at the Best Buddies Friendship Walk at Highmark Stadium in Station Square, Bethel Park's **Mrs. Julie Hernandez** was named the Best Buddies Advisor of the Year.

Also, BPHS alumna **Harley Vincler '20** won Officer of the Year for her participation in the Carlow College chapter of Best Buddies.

Hernandez and Vincler were each instrumental in getting the Best Buddies program off the ground at Bethel Park.

Today, the still-growing program has more than 100 members and has become an integral part of the larger Bethel Park community.



## McGough Participates in Songbook Academy

**Clara McGough**, a rising senior at Bethel Park High School, was among 40 finalists from 16 states – including five from Pennsylvania – to have been selected from hundreds of applications nationwide to participate in this year's Songbook Academy summer intensive, a pre-professional music program for young singers focusing on the timeless standards of jazz, pop, Broadway and Hollywood.

The summer music program was hosted by 5-time GRAMMY nominee **Michael Feinstein** and featured the Songbook Academy's masterclass, its showcase and its concert.

During the Public Masterclass, 10 randomly selected participants performed and received real-time critiques from Songbook Foundation Founder Feinstein and his guests.

That was followed by the Songbook Showcase, in which each of the 40 national finalists had a turn in the spotlight to perform a selection.

Feinstein emceed as all 40 singers performed in choral numbers, small group ensembles and featured solos to celebrate their



growth over the course of the week. The dynamic musical revue also included tributes to legendary songwriters, interview clips gathered during the week and guest performances by Songbook Academy alumni.

Now in its 14th year, the Songbook Academy is the flagship education initiative of the Great American Songbook Foundation, providing an opportunity for talented high school performers to experience a life-changing week of classes, workshops and performances under the guidance of arts and entertainment professionals and leading university educators.

The Songbook Academy is an opportunity to see tomorrow's stars just as their careers begin to blossom. Alumni from previous years include **Nina White (2016)**, now starring in the original cast of the Tony-nominated **Kimberly Akimbo** on Broadway; **Isabel Robin (2016)** and **Yardén Barr (2017)**, currently on the National Tour of Fiddler on the Roof; **Morgan Taylor (2019)**, who appeared on the last season of NBC's *The Voice*; and **Eleri Ward (2012)**, who is soon to release her third album of **Stephen Sondheim** songs and is currently on a solo tour after touring as a support act for **Josh Groban**.

## Independence Middle School Hires Tyler Dillinger as its Assistant Principal

In May, Bethel Park announced the appointment of **Mr. Tyler Dillinger** as the new Assistant Principal of Independence Middle School. Dillinger joins Bethel Park after serving as a McKeesport Area School District administrator.

As an Assistant Principal, Dillinger will play a key role in managing and administering all school programs, strategic planning and improvement, goal setting, and student discipline. Known for his strong communication skills, Dillinger will ensure that the school's standards for academic performance, student attendance, and behavioral conduct are effectively communicated to teachers, students, and parents.

Dillinger's previous roles as an assistant principal and teacher in the McKeesport Area and Yough School Districts have given him a deep understanding of the educational landscape and a passion for fostering student growth. He co-wrote the High School and Middle School Social Studies Curriculum, demonstrating his commitment to enhancing the quality of education. Dillinger also created the Yough School District's Act 35 Civics Exam, promoting student civic awareness.

In addition to his teaching experience, Dillinger has made a significant impact through his involvement in coaching, specifically the state-champion Hawks baseball team. Acting as a positive role model, he has used sports as a platform to build self-esteem, confidence, and teamwork among student-athletes. Dillinger has supported students in furthering their academic and athletic careers after high school, emphasizing the importance of holistic development.

"We are thrilled to welcome Tyler Dillinger to IMS," Principal **Mrs. Racquel Sutton** said. "His diverse experience as an educator and coach will undoubtedly enrich our students' educational journey. We look forward to his contributions to promoting excellence and fostering a positive learning environment."

Dillinger's educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies from Bethany College, where he excelled as a baseball coach. He later obtained a Master of Arts in Teaching from the same institution and completed the K-12 Principal Certification Program in School Administration at Point Park University.

With certifications in Administrative I Principal PK-12 and Instructional II Social Studies 7-12, Dillinger is well-prepared to assume his new role as Assistant Principal. Committed to ongoing development and growth within the field of school administration, he aims to make a difference in the lives of students, teachers, and the entire school community.

In his new role, Dillinger replaces **Mr. George Spalaris**, who retired at the end of the 2022-2023 school year.



## 2023 DECA International Career Development Conference

Forty Bethel Park High School DECA Members participated at the 2023 DECA International Career Development Conference, April 21-26 in Orlando. Over 20,000 students participated in this year's conference from all 50 states, Canada, Puerto Rico, Guam and Germany. Students competed against approximately 200 other teams, or individuals, per event.

The trio of **Mitchell Gramm (Grade 12 at the time of the conference)**, **Jack Kohnfelder (12)** and **Andrew Kvak (12)** qualified for the Finals and finished in the top 15 for the Sports & Entertainment Operations Research Event.

Thirteen teams were recognized for achieving all standards of performance in their respective event. Additionally, eight teams were recognized for finishing in the 70th percentile of their event or higher.

### 90th percentile or higher:

- **Josh Clunan (12)** and **Nolan Plassion (12)**, Community Awareness Project
- **Mira Weston (12)**, Financial Operations Research

### 80 - 89th percentile:

- **Emily Ashton (12)**, **Leah Hartman (12)** and **Martina Tatalias (12)**, Business Solutions Project
- **Grace DeMira (12)**, **Dom DePasquale (12)** and **Jackson Molli (12)**, Sales Project
- **Jack Hartman (12)**, **Mason Miller (12)** and **Owen Sivetz (12)**, Financial Literacy Promotion Plan

### 70 - 79th percentile:

- **Lexie Beck (12)**, **Mia Coccagno** and **Natalie Engel (12)**, Hospitality & Tourism Operations Research
- **Marena Chernicky (12)** and **Emma Bucheli (12)**, Career Development Project
- **Merris Gable (12)** and **Meghan Krapp (12)**, Community Awareness Project
- **Emma Bianco (10)**, **Audrey Campbell (10)** and **Nina DePasquale (10)**, Business Services Operations Research
- **Tommy Bova (11)**, **Tim Jones (12)** and **Trey Tygart (11)**, Innovation Plan
- **Lexi Dorfner (11)**, International Business Plan
- **Abigail Goldenberg (10)** and **Addison Hill (12)**, Community Giving Project
- **Cecilia Romary (9)** and **Danielle Whitaker (9)**, Innovation Plan



## Army War College Representatives Hold Panel Discussion on Global Affairs at Bethel Park High School

A panel discussion held in May between officials from the US Army War College and BPHS AP History students delved into a range of crucial national security-related topics. The panelists engaged in an informative and thought-provoking conversation, addressing the potential perils and opportunities of Artificial Intelligence (AI), the historical implications of complex global alliances, effective planning strategies, and the military's efforts to engage with today's students.



The panelists extensively explored the multifaceted aspects of AI, considering its potential risks, opportunities, and realities. As AI continues to advance, its impact on national security cannot be ignored. The panel highlighted the importance of understanding AI's ethical, strategic, and practical implications in order to make informed decisions about its incorporation into military operations.

The discussion also focused on the historical significance of complex global alliances. By examining past alliances, the panelists shed light on how these relationships shape the geopolitical landscape. Understanding the lessons from history provides invaluable insights for strategic decision-making and promotes a nuanced understanding of the complexities inherent in global affairs.

Emphasizing the fundamental tenets of planning and adaptability, the panelists highlighted the need for flexibility in the face of evolving challenges. They stressed the importance of being prepared to adjust plans as necessary, acknowledging the reality that no plan survives unchanged after initial contact. Adaptable planning ensures that military strategies remain effective and responsive to dynamic situations.

Recognizing the need to engage with today's students, the panelists explored ways in which the military can connect more effectively with the younger generation. **COL Dena Goble**, one of the panelists, emphasized that the military's mission is not to initiate wars but to preserve peace. "By fostering understanding and communication, the military can bridge the gap between its activities and the perceptions of contemporary students, thereby building meaningful connections and facilitating a deeper appreciation for national security issues," she said.

**Dr. Mike Neiberg**, a history professor at the US Army War College and a Pittsburgh native, provided valuable perspectives during the discussion. His expertise added depth to the examination of historical contexts, enriching the understanding of how historical events influence present-day national security considerations.

**Atul Bhat**, a Brigadier General in the Indian Army and a current student at the US Army War College, also shared his nation's perspective on the discussed issues. This contribution provided a broader understanding of international viewpoints and their implications. The panelists recognized the importance of diverse perspectives in shaping comprehensive strategies and fostering collaboration in the global arena.

The discussion was skillfully led by **COL Lance Oskey**, Chief of Staff at the US Army War College, and a notable BPHS alumnus '89. His leadership ensured that the panel addressed relevant and significant topics, allowing for a comprehensive exploration of national security concerns.

The panel discussion between officials from the US Army War College and BPHS AP History students provided an insightful examination of national security-related issues. By considering the potential of AI, analyzing global alliances, emphasizing adaptable planning, and enhancing military-student engagement, the panelists demonstrated the military's commitment to preserving peace. Such discussions facilitate a deeper understanding of national security challenges and foster collaboration and shared perspectives among military leaders and the next generation of students.

## BPHS Students Excel in National French Contest

Bethel Park High School students in French II-V participated in the 88th annual event Le Grand Concours, a competition sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) earlier this spring. The students took a 60-minute test which consisted of multiple-choice grammar and vocabulary questions and a listening section.

Over 43,000 elementary, middle, and high school students in all 50 states competed in the 2023 event. Bethel Park High School has 14 medal winners for students who ranked in the nation's 76th through the 99th percentile; and 19 students who earned honorable mentions for placing between the 50th and 74th percentiles.

### French V:

- Lauréat National, Bronze Medal (76th Percentile): **Andrew Williams**
- Certificat d'honneur (51st Percentile): **Cora Martin-Farmer**

### French IV:

- Lauréat National, Gold Medal (99th Percentile): **Grace Skalniak**

### French III:

- Lauréat National, Silver Medal (91st Percentile): **Maria Catana**; Bronze Medal (81st Percentile): **Devin Collier** and **Madelyn Hughes**
- The Certificat d'honneur winners were: (73rd to 67th Percentile) **Tyler Kramer**, **Lyla Walsh** and **Katie Yonish**; (65th to 50th Percentile) **Amelia Lancet**, **Subbasri Dhandapani**, **Sara Walters**, **Charlize Donaldson** and **Amber Kuss**

### French II:

- Lauréat National, Silver Medal (92nd to 88th Percentile): **Caroline Zelt**, **Lucy Martin-Farmer** and **Grace Perdziola**; Bronze Medal (82nd to 76th Percentile): **TJ Burt**, **Ava Cerro**, **Jonathan Hemphill**, **Eliett Briggs**, **Ashlyn Schmidt** and **Linus Truver**
- Certificat d'honneur (69th to 54th Percentile): **Emma Whalen**, **Andrew Hughes**, **Danielle Whitaker**, **Harley Dale**, **Nathan George**, **Eleni Kretchun**, **Alisa Basile**, **Logan Flood**, **Joanna Little** and **Madison Tygart**

## Bethel Park Student's Artwork to Hang in US Capitol



"No Canaries in the Coal Mine," by recent Bethel Park alumna **Tatum Brown**, has been chosen as one of the 23rd Annual Congressional Art Competition winners. Since June, and running until the end of the 2023-2024 school year, Tatum's graphite drawing will be displayed in the US Capitol. Tatum's piece, chosen by congresswoman **Summer L. Lee**, represents Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District, including Pittsburgh, portions of Allegheny, and Westmoreland Counties.

## IMS's Purcell Earns National Recognition

Independence Middle School eighth grader **Nate Purcell** is an all-round student-athlete and someone who pays it forward.

Purcell is an excellent student who participates on the Black Hawks eighth grade baseball team and the freshmen football team. He has also performed dozens of hours of community service. For all of his accomplishments, Purcell recently received the National Junior Honor Society Outstanding Achievement Award.

The NJHS award recognizes middle-level students for their commitment to the five pillars of NJHS: scholarship, service, leadership, character and citizenship. Purcell was one of 500 NJHS students selected for the award.

"Nate is a wonderful example for other students with his positive attitude, willingness to volunteer, hard work in and out of the classroom, and reliability," **Mrs. Racquel Sutton**, Independence Middle School principal said.



# NAMS's Hydroponics Club Cultivating More than Fresh Vegetables

At Neil Armstrong Middle School, an exciting and innovative initiative is taking root through the Hydroponics Club.

Led by veteran health and physical education teacher **Mr. David Espinar**, the club provides students with a unique opportunity to explore the world of hydroponic gardening, nurturing plants from seed to harvest.

"We have so many wonderful, curious students who want to learn new skills while making a difference in their backyard, and this club affords those kids that opportunity," he said.

With a focus on organic, pesticide-free cultivation, the club aims to promote a farm-to-table experience that exposes students to the joys of harvesting fresh vegetables.

**Seeds, Growth, and Harvest:** The Hydroponics Club members start their journey by mastering the art of seed germination. Seeds are carefully planted in Rockwool, a growing medium, and within 4-6 days, they sprout into seedlings. The seedlings are then nurtured for an additional 28-30 days until they reach full maturity, ready for harvest. Timing is crucial as lettuce, one of the club's primary crops tends to turn bitter if harvested late. Other crops cultivated include cucumbers, green beans, chard, and tomatoes, broadening the students' vegetable exposure.

## The Hydroponic Advantage:

Hydroponics, a soil-less cultivation method, offers numerous advantages over traditional farming. By controlling factors such as pH levels, water, and nutrients, the club tries to mimic optimal soil conditions for plant growth. Lettuce, for instance, thrives in a pH range of 5.5. Despite using substantial amounts of water, hydroponics utilizes 90-95% less water than conventional farming methods, contributing to water conservation efforts.

## Support and Funding:

The Neil Armstrong Middle School Hydroponics Club has received support from various organizations. The non-profit Whole Kids Foundation provided \$3,000 in funding, while the PA Ag and Youth Grant offered a generous sum of \$7,500. Metz, the district's food service provider, also contributed \$500 towards the project. Additionally, the club is primarily self-funded through student initiatives, showcasing their dedication and passion for the project.

**Environmental Impact and Workforce Development:** The Hydroponics Club is not just about growing vegetables; it also has a broader impact.

The hands-on experience with hydroponics teaches students about sustainability and environmental stewardship.

"It may surprise people that 60% of students do not consume fresh food or vegetables throughout their day," said Espinar. "This program helps to ensure that number is lower in Bethel Park."

Espinar believes that programs like this are helpful in that regard because kids are more likely to choose healthy foods they have helped to cultivate.

"It was a little disheartening at first when some students confessed that they had never eaten a salad because it was too bitter and didn't taste very good," he said. "I tried to explain to them that the bitterness they were tasting was more of a result of packaging and processing than anything else. Projects like this one help demonstrate to our students that healthy food can also be delicious food."

Espinar added that the club not only increases accessibility to nutritious options but also imparts valuable skills for workforce development.

"This project is so comprehensive that that forces the students to develop workforce skills like communication, collaboration, problem-solving and critical thinking," he said.

According to Espinar, each team works independently with a tower manager and assistants to measure and record readings of pH and water depth. The team then brainstorms whether to add or reduce the pH. Once the individual teams of 2-4 students per tower have their readings, they have what they call a "family meeting" to discuss their findings and plot their course of action.

"It really is similar to hospital rounds," said Espinar. "We all share our findings with each other, think critically and collaborate on what our next steps might be. It's a very powerful process that teaches students an array of skills that they'll use throughout their lives."

**Innovation and Student Involvement:** Hydroponics opens up new possibilities, with vertical farms becoming a real phenomenon. The integration of LED lights has revolutionized indoor farming, making it possible to grow crops efficiently year-round. Furthermore, hydroponics reduces runoff, preventing harmful substances from entering the ecosystem. The benefits of hydroponics are clear, making it a no-brainer for the Neil Armstrong Middle School Hydroponics Club.

The Hydroponics Club at Neil Armstrong Middle School provides a platform for students to engage with agriculture, sustainability, and nutrition. Through hands-on experience, the club cultivates fresh produce, promotes environmental awareness, and imparts valuable skills. It has also allowed them to make a difference in their community. In May, the club delivered its spring harvest to the South Hills Interfaith Movement (SHIM), one of the area's premier food distribution centers for underprivileged families.

With support from the school, colleagues, and various organizations – like SHIM – the club is thriving as an outlet for students during the winter and spring. As the club gains recognition and expands its impact, it is clear that the Hydroponics Club has created a fruitful journey for its members and the community.



## NAMS's Volume Zoo Measures Up

Neil Armstrong Middle School's second annual Volume Zoo project was held in May and June, and brought together fifth graders from Teams Ranger and Atlantis. The project involved a series of engaging activities and culminated in a vibrant display of creativity in the school's lobby.

According to **Ms. Leanne Cupp**, who led Team Ranger, her students began working on their projects before the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) exams in mid-May. "We divided them into groups, where they embarked on designing, researching, and measuring their projects," she said. As part of the preparation, students, staff, and community members generously donated boxes to support the teams' creations.

**Ms. Kristen Rylander** headed Team Ranger. She explained that by measuring the dimensions of the donated boxes, the students diligently calculated the total volume of their projects. "That part provided the students with valuable hands-on experience in applying mathematical concepts and spatial reasoning," she said.

In addition to the construction aspect, the students extensively researched their chosen animals. They explored different species, adaptations, habitats, and other fascinating facts. Each student maintained a research folder documenting the animal's name and the number of cubic inches allocated to represent it in their project.

With the groundwork complete, it was time for the students to unleash their creativity. They enthusiastically wrapped each box in vibrant, colorful paper and unleashed their artistic skills to transform them into eye-catching displays. The transformed creations showcased the students' imagination and attention to detail.

The artwork-filled lobby became a lively menagerie, captivating all who entered. The exhibits not only showcased the students' artistic talents but also served as a visual representation of their knowledge and understanding of the animal kingdom and how to calculate volume.

The Volume Zoo project provided the students with a multifaceted learning experience. It fostered teamwork, research skills, mathematical understanding, and artistic expression. Moreover, the project engaged the entire school community, creating a sense of pride and accomplishment – a fitting culmination to a successful academic year.

As the final few weeks of school unfolded, students, staff, and visitors were delighted to admire the imaginative and well-crafted displays that adorned the NAMS lobby. The Volume Zoo project stands as a testament to the creativity and dedication of the students, highlighting their ability to learn and shine beyond traditional classroom settings.



## Cole, Mafriçi Each Win Golden Hammer Awards



In May, **Santino Cole** and **Leah Mafriçi**, Bethel Park High School students who also attend Mon Valley CTC, were recognized at that school's Golden Hammer Awards for their outstanding work. Each semester, the school honors students who show excellence and leadership in their vocational program.

## BETHEL PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL PUBLIC NOTICE — 2023-2024

The Bethel Park School District uses the following procedures for locating, identifying, and evaluating specified needs of school-aged students requiring special programs or services. These procedures are described in this notice as required by law.

As prescribed by Section 1402 of the School Code, the District routinely conducts screenings of a child's hearing acuity in Kindergarten, 1, 2, 3, 7, and 11 grades. Visual acuity is screened in all grades annually. Speech and language skills are screened in Kindergarten and on a referral basis. New students are initially screened during the year of admission. Gross motor and fine motor skills, academic skills, and social-emotional skills are assessed by classroom teachers on an ongoing basis. Other screening activities include but are not limited to the review of cumulative group-based achievement and ability data; health and attendance records; grades; and information shared by the parents/guardians. Specified needs from these screening sources are noted in the child's official file.

School records are always open and available to parents/guardians and only to school officials with legitimate "need to know" information about the student. Information from the records is released to other persons or agencies only with appropriate authorization involving parents' or legal guardians' written signed permission.

Parents/guardians with concerns regarding their child may contact building principals anytime to request a screening or evaluation of their child or by contacting the Student Support Services Department. (*Names and phone numbers of the appropriate contacts are listed at the end of this notice.*) Communication with parents/guardians and eligible students shall be in English or the native language of the parents/guardians.

Screening information will be used by the Intervention Team or Student Assistance Team within the student's school to meet his or her specific needs or to document the need for further evaluation. Student Assistance/Intervention Team services are provided to students in grades kindergarten through 12. The pre-referral process identifies those students at risk for academic or behavioral needs and includes parental involvement in determining whether a student may benefit from intervention services. Individual student plans are developed, and monitoring of specific goals with data to determine student progress and efficacy of interventions are put into place. Suppose a student is not making sufficient progress. In that case, the school district may issue a referral for evaluation, or a parent may request a multi-disciplinary evaluation at any time.

The Multidisciplinary Team comprises parents, legal guardians, teachers, certified school psychologists, related service personnel, and persons familiar with the student's educational experience and cultural background. The evaluations conducted by the Team must be sufficient in scope and depth to provide information about the student's academic functioning, adaptive and social behavior, learning problems, strengths, information obtained by the Intervention Team or Student Assistance Team, and information from the parents/guardians. After evaluations are completed, an Evaluation Report (ER) will be compiled, including specific recommendations for the interventions necessary to meet the student's needs. This evaluation will be completed, and a report will be sent to the parents/guardians within 60 calendar days. Parents/guardians are then invited to participate in a meeting to discuss the evaluation results.

Suppose the student meets the criteria for the presence of a disability and needs specially designed instruction. In that case, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) will then be developed for specially designed instruction for the student within 30 calendar days. The IEP team must consist of the student's parent(s), special education teacher, regular education teacher(s), and local education agency representative (LEA). If determined, students of transition age or younger must be invited to participate. The building principal, Director of the Student Support Services Department, or Supervisor of Special Education will serve as the chair/LEA, and a district psychologist, other specialists as needed, and other administrative staff, when appropriate, may attend.

Before initiating services, parents/guardians will be presented with a Notice of Recommended Educational Placement, which explains the services and educational placement recommendations. Parental consent must be obtained before providing initial special education and related services. The Procedural Safeguards Notice describes the parents'/guardians' rights and options if they disagree with the individualized program presented.

### Services for Mentally Gifted Students

When screening results suggest a student may be eligible for Gifted Education, the school district seeks parental consent to conduct a multidisciplinary evaluation. Additionally, a parent may request a multi-disciplinary evaluation at any time. The initial evaluation based on a multiple criteria approach is summarized in the Gifted Written Report (GWR) and used by the Gifted Individualized Education Program (GIEP) team to develop the GIEP. After the initial evaluation, students identified as mentally gifted are reevaluated before a change in educational placement is recommended or under the recommendation of the GIEP team. The Notice of Recommended Assignment (NORA), signed by the parent, gives the school district permission to provide services. Parents can obtain further information by contacting their child's school principal or the district's Student Support Services at **412-854-8410**.

### Services for Eligible School-Age Students

The Bethel Park School District provides eligible students with a free, appropriate public education. To qualify as an eligible student, the child must be of school age, in need of specially-designed instruction, and meet eligibility criteria for one or more of the following physical or mental disabilities, as outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act and Pennsylvania State Regulations: Autism, Deaf-Blindness, Deafness, Emotional Disturbance, Hearing Impairment, Intellectual Disability, Multiple Disabilities, Orthopedic Impairment, Other Health Impairment, Specific Learning Disability, Speech or Language Impairment, Traumatic Brain Injury, or Visual Impairment including Blindness.

The Bethel Park School District provides eligible students various placement options and services. Options in the district range from supportive intervention in the regular classroom to itinerant, supplemental, or full-time levels of intervention, depending on the student's individual needs. Inclusive intervention practices of the general education curriculum and classroom with supplementary aids and services are the first step in the continuum of placement options. Other placement options to meet the student's needs may include but are not limited to, services secured from the Intermediate Unit, another school district, an approved private school, or a private licensed academic school program. Placement options provide all eligible students with free and appropriate public education (FAPE). The district also provides related services such as, but not limited to, transportation, speech and language therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, nursing services, psychological services, social worker services, paraeducator support, and personal care assistant services.

The following programs are currently provided within the district: Learning Support, Life Skills Support, Emotional Support, Autistic Support, Blind or Visually Impaired Support, Deaf and Hearing Impaired Support, Physical Support, Speech and Language Support, and Gifted Support. As evidence of the full continuum of services, educational placements outside of the district have included, but are not limited to, Emotional Support at Pace School, Wesley School Programs; Learning Support at ACLD Tillotson School; Life Skills Support at Mon Valley School, Pathfinder School, Education Center at the Watson Institute, and the Children's Institute; Blind or Visually Impaired Support at Western Pennsylvania School for the Blind; Deaf and Hearing Impaired Support at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf and the DePaul School for Hearing and Speech; Autistic Support at Wesley School Programs, Pathfinder School, Mon Valley School, Pressley Ridge Day School for Autism; and Multiple Disabilities Support at

the Children's Institute and Pathfinder School.

### Services for Students Who are English Learners

The education of students whose dominant language is not English is the responsibility of every school district/charter school in Pennsylvania. English learners must be enrolled upon presentation of a local address and proof of immunization. The Home Language Survey (HLS) is administered to all students and retained in the student's permanent record. For those students whose primary home language is other than English (PHLOTE), the district must also determine the student's English language proficiency, and, if appropriate, English as a Second Language instruction will be provided following all regulations, policies, and procedures. Parents/guardians can obtain further information by contacting their child's school principal or the district's Student Support Services Department at **412-854-8410**.

### Services for Students Identified as Homeless and/or Foster Care

In compliance with the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, the Bethel Park School District is attempting to identify all children within the district that may be experiencing homelessness. The district implements child find activities for other students in addition to those identified as homeless or in foster care, such as wards of the state, highly mobile children, and migrant children, to provide equal access to evaluations and services.

Homeless children and youth lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This includes individuals who are:

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.
- Living in a hotel, motel, trailer park, or campground due to inadequate alternative accommodations.
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters.
- Living in cars, parks, public places, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
- Living in substandard housing (*no running water, working utilities, infestations, etc.*).
- Unaccompanied homeless youth means any child not in the physical custody of a parent/guardian.

Children who are experiencing homelessness may qualify for enrollment in free breakfast and lunch programs, access to appropriate instructional and social-emotional learning supports, and transportation so they can remain in their school of origin.

If you believe your child/children may qualify for these services or your living situation changes during the school year and your children become homeless, please contact **Dr. David Muench** via email at [muench.david@bphawks.org](mailto:muench.david@bphawks.org). Also, additional family information can be found in the school's handbook and at [BPSD Homeless Information](#). The district will work with any parent/guardian so your child/children's education suffers as little disruption as possible.

Dr. David Muench, Homeless Education Liaison, Bethel Park School District Student Support Services Department, **412-854-8410**.

### Services for Students in Nonpublic Schools

Parents/guardians of non-public school students who suspect their child has a disability and needs special education may request a multidisciplinary evaluation through a written request to the district's Student Support Services Department. Parents/guardians can obtain further information by contacting their child's school principal or the district's Student Support Services Department at **412-854-8410**.

### Services for Preschool Age Children

Act 212, the Early Intervention System Act, entitles all preschool-age children with disabilities to appropriate early intervention services. Young children experiencing developmental delays or physical or mental disabilities are eligible for early intervention services, including screening, evaluation, individualized education program planning, and provision of appropriate programs and services.

The Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare services infants and toddlers, defined as children from birth through two years of age. Contact the Alliance for Infants and Toddlers at 2801 Custer Avenue, 2nd Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15227, **412-885-6000**, or on the internet at <http://www.afit.org/>.

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## ANNUAL PUBLIC NOTICE

(cont. from pg. 56)

The Pennsylvania Department of Education is responsible for providing services to preschool-age children from three to five years of age. Contact Project DART of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit at 475 E. Waterfront Drive, Homestead, PA 15120, 412-394-5736, or on the internet at <http://www.iau3.net/>.

Bethel Park School District ensures that all students transitioning from early intervention programs to kindergarten or first grade programs within the district are transitioned without disruption of services. Parents/guardians of children entering school-age programs are notified of the district's transition activities, which occur before kindergarten registration each year. The district follows the federal and state regulations on the evaluation process based on identified needs, subsequent documentation, and provision of special education and related services.

### Information Regarding Signs of Developmental Delays and Other Risk Factors for Parents/Guardians to Look for that May Indicate the Possibility of a Disability

Suppose your child is less than the age of beginners (age 5 before September 1) and at least 3 years of age. In that case, your child may be considered to have a developmental delay when difficulties exist in cognitive, communicative, physical, social/emotional, and self-help development where a delay in comparison to typical development is present. Parents/guardians who have questions about their child's development or the possible presence of a disability may talk with their family physician or healthcare provider or contact the Allegheny County Health Department at 412-687-2243.

If you have questions regarding difficulties your child may be experiencing, please contact the Student Support Services Department at 412-854-8410.

Potential signs of developmental delay and other risk factors that could indicate the presence of a disability may include:

- By the age of 3: Not saying many words; not using 2-3 word phrases and sentences; not walking; awkward gait (*walking*); excessive salivation; not answering "show" or "what" questions; and/or not using utensils to feed self.
- By the age of 4 (*all of the above included*): Not toilet trained; difficulty with directional words (*in, on, under, out*); not playing with other children; not able to draw a circle, cross, or imitate a vertical line; not able to understand the child's speech most of the time; and/or difficulty following simple two-step directions.
- By the age of 5 (*all of the above included*): unable to answer "where" questions; unable to recall details from a story; not drawing a person with at least 6 parts; immature speech patterns ("*me*" instead of "*I*"); and not able to hop forward on one foot without support.
- Other warning signs at any age: Little to no eye contact; over/under sensitivities to pain, light, and noise; hand flapping; no awareness of space (*always bumping into other people or things*); awkward hand or foot positioning; won't touch or eat certain textures; child no longer can do things he/she used to do; developed normally, then stopped; echoes what is said; and/or plays with toys inappropriately (*watches wheels spin on a car toy, but does not play with the car*).

Additional information and fact sheets on child development from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (*NICHCY*), and other resources may be found on the Student Support Services webpage located at [www.bpsd.org/SpecialServices.aspx](http://www.bpsd.org/SpecialServices.aspx).

Protected Handicapped Students/Chapter 15 The Bethel Park School District, in compliance with state and federal law, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Chapter 15 of the Pennsylvania Public School Code, will provide to each protected handicapped student without discrimination or cost to the student or family, those related aids, services, or accommodations which are needed to provide the student equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school program and extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate to the student's abilities. To qualify as a protected handicapped student, the child must be of school age with a physical or mental disability or diagnosis which

substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect of the school program. These services and protections for "protected handicapped students" are distinct from those applicable to all eligible or exceptional students enrolled (*or seeking enrollment*) in special education programs.

For further information on the evaluation procedures and provisions of services to protected handicapped students, contact the Student Support Services Department at 412-854-8410.

### Confidentiality of Student Records

Bethel Park School District and its employees are required by Federal Law and State and Federal Rules and Regulations to protect the rights of students, including confidentiality of personally identifiable information for all students under state and federal law and the district's student records policy. The foundation of these rights comes from Federal legislation entitled the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (*also known as the Buckley Amendments*). State Rules and Regulations deal with regular and special education students' rights and privacy. The State Regulations cover all students in Chapter 12, Students' Rights and Responsibilities.

The basic premise of the abovementioned laws, rules, and regulations is that information about students cannot be disclosed without written parental consent. There are different categories of information: Educational Records, Personally Identifiable Information, and Directory Information. Education Records consist of information directly related to students maintained by the educational agency. Personally Identifiable Information includes the student's name, the name of the parent or other family members, a personal identifier, or a list of personal characteristics that would make the student's identity easily traceable.

Education Records and Personally Identifiable Information cannot be disclosed or released without written parental/guardian consent or if a student is over 18 without the student's permission.

There is certain information that can be released without consent, which is called Directory Information. Directory Information means information contained in an educational record of a student which would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. The school district designates what information is labeled as Directory Information. It shall include the following: the student's name, address, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees, and awards received, and the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student.

Disclosure of information means to permit access to or the release, transfer, or other communication of education records or the personally identifiable information contained in these records, to any party, by any means, including oral, written, or electronic means. This means that information about a student cannot even be shared in conversation without permission. This also applies to other Bethel Park personnel who need an educationally relevant reason to possess a student's knowledge.

Written parental consent is necessary to disclose Personally Identifiable Information and Educational Records. The consent must: (1) specify the records that may be disclosed; (2) state the purpose of the disclosure; (3) identify the party or class of parties to whom the disclosure may be made. Furthermore, the Bethel Park School District must maintain a written disclosure record for the parents/guardians to inspect in case information has been released.

Under 34 CFR §300.624, please be advised of the following retention/destruction schedule for the Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (*PASA*), Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (*PSSA*), and Keystone Exam-related materials:

- PSSA, Keystone Exam, and PASA test booklets will be destroyed one year after student reports are delivered for the administration associated with the test booklets.
- PSSA and Keystone Exam answer booklets and PASA media recordings will be destroyed three years after the completion of the assessment.

A parent may file a written complaint alleging that the rights described in this notice were not provided to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education, Division of Compliance, 333 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333.

The Department of Education will investigate the

matter and issue a report of findings and necessary corrective action within 60 days. The Department will take necessary action to ensure compliance is achieved. Complaints alleging failures of the school district concerning the confidentiality of personally identifiable information may also be filed with: the Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202-4605.

### Non-Discrimination Policy

The Bethel Park School District will not discriminate in its education programs, activities, or employment practice, based on race, color, national origin, sex, sexual preference, disability, age, religion, ancestry, union membership, or any other legally protected classification. Announcement of this policy is following state and federal laws, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Employees and participants who have an inquiry or complaint of harassment or discrimination or who need information about accommodations for persons with disabilities should contact: the Office of the Superintendent, 301 Church Road, Bethel Park, PA 15102, 412-854-8402, or the Director of the Office of Civil Rights, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202-1100.

#### Benjamin Franklin Elementary School (K-4)

5400 Florida Avenue  
Teresa Doumont, Principal  
412-854-8741

#### Abraham Lincoln Elementary School (K-4)

1524 Hamilton Road  
Jay Johnson, Principal  
412-854-8618

#### Bethel Memorial Elementary School (K-4)

3301 South Park Road  
Eric Chalus, Principal  
412-854-8506

#### George Washington Elementary School (K-4)

515 Clifton Road  
Fred Pearson, Principal  
412-854-8546

#### William Penn Elementary School (K-4)

110 Woodlet Lane  
Brian Lenosky, Principal &  
Director for Cyber Education  
412-854-8522

#### Neil Armstrong Middle School (5-6)

5800 Murray Avenue  
Kenneth Patterson, Principal  
Sheryl Kremer, Assistant Principal  
412-854-8756

#### Independence Middle School (7-8)

2807 Bethel Church Road  
Mrs. Racquel Sutton, Principal  
Mr. Tyler Dillinger, Assistant Principal  
412-854-8678

#### Bethel Park High School (9-12)

309 Church Road  
Joe Villani, Principal  
Mr. Jim Fodse, Assistant Principal  
Mr. Keith Walters, Assistant Principal  
412-854-8581

#### Student Support Services Department

Bethel Park School District  
301 Church Road  
Dr. David Muench, Director of Student Support Services  
Dr. Sarah Shue, Supervisor of Special Education  
412-854-8410

# Bethel Park High School's Class of 2023 Commencement



Bethel Park High School held its 114th annual Commencement at Black Hawk Stadium on **Thursday, June 8, 2023**, on an unseasonably cool summer night that featured a brief shower beforehand, and a poor air quality alert throughout the week, the result of wildfires that have raged across Canada.

Those proved to be little more than minor distractions for a group that has already overcome so much adversity in their young lives, including navigating through a global pandemic and completely reinventing how education was delivered and received during their brief but memorable high school careers.

Among its 352 members, the Bethel Park High School Class of 2023 included 116 students who graduated with the Highest Honors (*QPA higher than 4.0*), 60 students who graduated with High Honors (*QPA of 3.75 to 4.0*), and 36 students who graduated with Honors (*QPA of 3.50 to 3.749*).

One hundred and eighteen of this year's graduates were members of the National Honor Society. Seventy-three percent will attend a four-year institution, and eight percent will attend a two-year institution. Approximately one percent of the Class of '23 will enter the military, while 18 percent is unknown, undecided, or will enter the workforce.

This year's Valedictorian, **Carter Kicinski**, praised his classmates' persistence and adaptability during a very difficult period and urged them to maintain that growth mindset in the future. "I am proud to say that we overcame COVID-19 as a group. We did not let it ruin our high school experience, but rather we made the most out of it," he said. "We can't shy away from the major changes in our lives. While it may seem like a lot right now, we must know that it is just another step toward the success we seek."

Salutatorian **Mira Weston** spoke wistfully about the letter she recently received from her third grade self and laughed at how drastically different her priorities are now. She also surmised that years from now, she and her classmates will undoubtedly be similarly nostalgic about the innocence of their current plight.

With that in mind, Weston echoed Kicinski's call for their classmates to embrace change. "Change is not only an inevitable part of life, but it is also a necessary part of life," she cautioned. "Within change environments, we can better flourish and propel ourselves towards higher and greater goals. Change is not something to be feared, but rather something to welcome, for its abundance of potential in advancement."

During his remarks, Bethel Park High School Principal **Mr. Joseph Villani** complimented the members of the Class of '23 for its excellence in the classroom, on the playing fields, on the stage, and most importantly, in the community.

"I am so proud of the effort and dedication this class has committed to reaching while elevating our school to the national stage, as you did this past year

when Bethel Park joined an exclusive list of American high schools to be named a 2022 National Blue Ribbon School," he said. "That recognition, which formally designated BPHS as an Exemplary High Performing School, was derived largely from the test scores and other achievements by this graduating class."

Assistant Superintendent **Dr. Mark Korcinsky** encouraged the students to celebrate their achievements and acknowledge the unique challenges they have overcome during their high school years.

"You have endured a global pandemic that disrupted your education, changed how you learn, and tested your resilience," he said. "Despite these obstacles, you have demonstrated remarkable adaptability and strength and emerged stronger and more prepared for the future."

In keeping with tradition, red, white, and blue military cords and BPHS challenge coins, were presented to the students who will soon serve in the armed forces. Principal Advisory Council of Students President **Drew Lippert** gave the background and descriptions of the coins. Retired Major Dr. Erik Clacks coordinated the presentation. Air Force Staff Sergeant Kristen Erb and Army Sergeant **Matthew Sunseri** joined him.

Class President **Colin Fink** gave the Senior Farewell, encouraging his fellow graduates to remain optimistic during an otherwise challenging time.

"There's this idea that we, as a generation, were born too late and into a world where everything has either been thought of or monopolized," he said. "Where we no longer have control over the technology that has been created. And where it's more important to prove others wrong than to prove oneself right."

"I would suggest that we are specially equipped to carry the torch and say that the uniqueness of our generation, given that we were raised during the genesis of modern technology, gives us a unique opportunity quite literally to change the world," said Fink.

Student Government Association President **Melina Stewart** concluded the ceremony by leading the class in the traditional turning of the tassels and tossing their caps.

Best wishes to the Class of 2023. Thank you for the memories, and continue to do great things!



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