



BETHLEHEM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT EDUCATION CENTER

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BASD Community:

I've been asked many times, "What makes the Bethlehem Area School District (BASD) different or special compared to other school districts?" My answer always comes back to the inseparable bond between the school district and the greater Bethlehem community, and how there is no difference between the BASD's 22 schools and the diverse, progressive, and proud communities that they serve. Public schools were founded on the idea that the community has a strong stake in the education, citizenship, and aspirations of all its children. That commitment to the next generation exists in the communities, neighborhoods, and collective experiences that I like to call the BASD Community (#BASDcommunity).


Bethlehem frequently ranks at the top in the most livable cities indexes because of its diverse population, tremendous history, vibrant economy, thriving cultural institutions, cool vibe, and "can do" attitude. All of the wonderful things, as well as all of the challenges, of the BASD Community live in our 22 future-leaning schools. Everyone makes a contribution; whether you have been a resident of the BASD Community for 60 years or 60 hours, you belong here, and we accept you as you are. We recognize that not all people are the same; some have more opportunities than others. Given that, we are committed to giving all our students what they need academically, socially, and emotionally to be strong contributors to our community's success.

Academically, the BASD is committed to evidence-based practices that help all students meet grade-level standards and achieve college or career readiness. Our classrooms are known nationally for our pioneering reading instruction that follows the science of reading with all students. Our STEM and Arts programs incorporate the most modern curricula and are supported by dozens of community partnerships. The BASD's countless co-curricular and extracurricular programs give students opportunities to pursue individual passions in athletics, performing arts, and service areas.

BASD students are given tremendous amounts of support. From special educational services, English Language Learning programming, school counseling, student groups, mentoring programs, and robust Student Assistant Planning and mental health services, the BASD affords students modern and effective tools to meet pressing needs.

But don't take my word for it, Mayor J. William Reynolds wrote recently of the BASD Community, "Bethlehem Area School District continues to be the best school district around. We continue to attract and hold on to creative, diverse and dynamic individuals who are, leading our institutional, cultural, economic, and arts sectors." Welcome to the BASD Community and our 22 schools!

Sincerely,



Jack P. Silva, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools