

Transforming Education in the Wilkinsburg School District

Dear Families,

In the Wilkinsburg School District, we believe that *Every Child, Every Day Matters*.

At Wilkinsburg School District, we serve the unique needs of individual students, families and communities to better support and enable a strong, academic curriculum. Strong ties with the community lead to more partnerships and programs outside the classroom, which in turn can be used to directly support instruction and empower students to learn.

Investing in partnerships both inside and outside our community has resulted in some positive opportunities for our students. We have achieved smaller class sizes, provided additional resources to children identified as needing assistance, and incorporated technology in our classrooms with an emphasis on STEAM (Science, Technology Engineering, Arts and Mathematics).

The District Reconfiguration Plan, which was adopted by the School Board of Directors for implementation starting with the 2018-2019 School Year, has been producing results. Our partnership with PPS was commended by PA Auditor General Eugene DePasquale as one that should be considered for implementation by other struggling school districts in the state. This reconfiguration not only provided better opportunities for our students, but also has allowed the District to re-purpose funding. As the direct result of the reconfiguration, the District already has reaped the following benefits:

- Enrollment has increased
- Daily attendance rates have increased to 95%
- Breakfast participation is at 93%
- After School Programs are now available at Kelly and Turner
- District-wide transportation is provided for the first time to students

In addition to supporting our students, we have continued our focus on professional development for staff members, and providing the tools needed to help them achieve success in their classrooms.

The planned grand opening of the newly-renovated Turner Intermediate School will be a highlight of the new school year, which will now house students in grades 2-6. The decision to move second graders to Turner is the direct result of the tremendous growth our District is experiencing. Moving grade two to Turner will allow for even more expansion in the future, while continuing to keep class sizes between 11-15 students. There also is room at Turner for a dedicated STEAM classroom, which will aid in the District's continued support of transformative learning opportunities for our students. Four classrooms will remain available at Turner, which will be dedicated to future expansion as the District continues to grow and thrive. Check our website for more news pertaining to this move and for dates for the community grand opening celebration. Also, at its monthly Legislative Board Meeting on May 28, 2019, the Board of Directors approved to have painting, new carpeting and other cosmetic changes and repairs made to Kelly Primary over the summer.

Interested in learning more about the outstanding educational opportunities Wilkinsburg can offer your child? Please contact Shannon Galore at galores@wilkinsburgschools.org or 412-871-2129.

Sincerely,

Dr. Linda J. Iverson, Ph.D.
 Superintendent of Schools



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School Features	Wilkinsburg School District Pre-K to 6th Grade
Student-to-Teacher Ratio	Turner - 18:1 / Kelly - 18:1
Technology	SMART Boards, Apple TVs, Laptops, iPads (1:1 ratio)
Special Class Offerings	STEAM, Media, Instrumental Music (4-6), Chorus (4-6), General Music, Art, Physical Education, Foreign Language
Student Support Services	Positive Behavior, Second Step Social Skills Curriculum, Emotional Support Classroom, Special Education Dept., Spanish Immersion Program, Reading & Math Coaches, Student Assistance Team, Social Worker (on site), Title I Services, Guidance Counselors in each building, School Psychologist, After School Dinner Program, WPA Family Services Sepctrum Partnership, Wilkinsburg Family Resource Center (on site)

Wilkinsburg School District Fast Facts

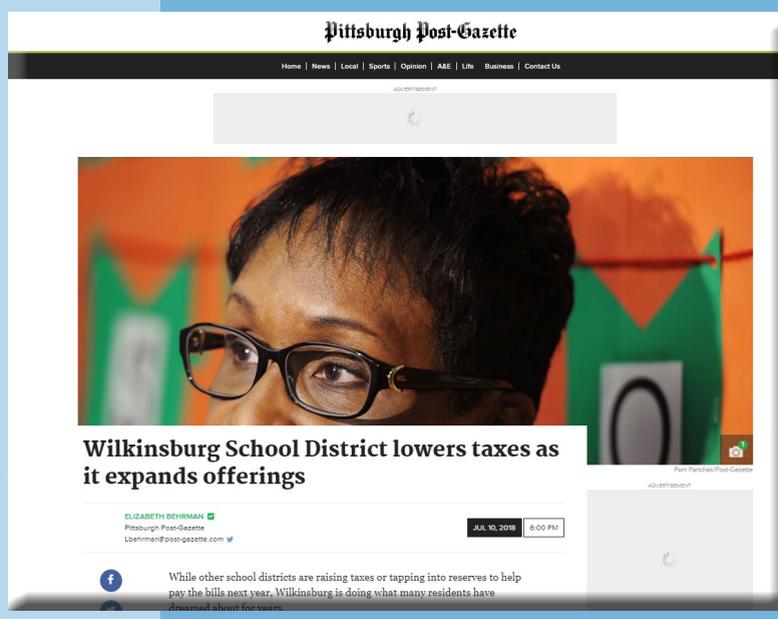
The Wilkinsburg School District has established ongoing goals as part of its Reconfiguration Process. Among the goals established:

- To raise the expectations of all District employees using guided support;
- To provide high-quality teaching, positive environments for learning and the support for the physical, emotional and social well-being students need to succeed;
- To unify and bring more coherence, consistency and sustainability to the District's effort to strengthen its academic programming;
- To ensure high-quality academi programs, positive school environments and the well-being of the whole child;
- To improve how District-level strategic initiatives and priorities are actually implemented at the school level;
- To focus resources in schools; and
- To be good stewards of the public funds used, making sure the District receives the funding it is due and to give the public confidence those funds are being spent wisely and effectively.



As a District, Wilkinsburg is committed to serving our students educationally, socially and emotionally. While we acknowledge these needs have gone unmet in the past, we now have the personnel and resources in place to ensure that *every child, every day matters*. Here are just some of the ways WSD serves our families:

- We are remaking learning in Wilkinsburg! Children with an interest in science, technology, arts, engineering or math can now take advantage of our STEAM class as part of the specials rotation. Every student in grades K-6 will explore and experience learning in a space that fosters their creativity to learn, think and problem-solve in a hands-on, makerspace environment filled with equipment and resources.
- Extra support is provided to children who need it, whether it involves children in special education classes or children who are simply a little behind.
- Unlike many districts in our area, Wilkinsburg offers the community full-day Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten programs.
- Class sizes are small, with student-teacher ratios of 18:1.
- Through the partnership with Pittsburgh Public Schools, our students in grades 7-12 have access to everything PPS has to offer, including the Pittsburgh Promise and eligibility for magnet schools.
- An on-site social worker is available to support our students and our families.
- The District has implemented a Positive Behavior Intervention Support program, with PBIS coaches at Kelly and Turner.



To request more information on the benefits of rejoining the Wilkinsburg School District, please contact:

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Email: galores@wilkinsburgschools.org

Check us out:
Website: www.wilkinsburgschools.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/WilkinsburgSD/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/WilkinsburgSD