

# Abington News



## News and Views from The Superintendent



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Welcome back ... to the 2010-2011 school year!

Last year was a great year for Abington students and staff. Students won many awards throughout the year, our athletic teams did well, teachers received local and national recognition, and many more parents became involved with their children's education and activities.

We are looking forward to another great year – hopefully with a lot less snow than last year!

*Money Magazine* again named Abington one of America's 100 Best Places to Live!



### ***High quality of Abington schools was an important factor in selection***

Over the summer, we learned with great pride that Abington was again recognized by *Money* magazine as one of America's 100 Best Places to Live. In fact, we were ranked #29 of America's best small cities, one of only two communities in Pennsylvania to make the top 100. We are pleased and proud that Education (our schools) and Arts/Leisure were the two attributes that scored "A's" in *Money's* analysis.

Our schools and our students' achievements and performance on assessment measures consistently rank high in the region and state. According to *Money's* data, drawn from GreatSchools.net, Abington's percentage of students scoring above the state's average on state assessments is about twice that of the average for all communities identified as Best Places to Live. In addition, our Opportunities to Learn initiative offers a college preparatory secondary education to all Abington and Rockledge students. Furthermore, we offer a wide array of Honors and Advanced Placement courses.

We like to think that the "A" in Arts/Leisure is due in some part to our schools' excellent art, music, and athletic programs including the junior and senior high schools' outstanding musicals and dramas – critics have rated these shows and plays at near if not at the professional theatrical level. Our musical groups perform to standing room only audiences ... our student art displays and shows exhibit outstanding creativity, often well beyond what one would expect of students at that age or grade level. On many Fall Friday nights you'll find the bleachers and standing room areas filled with Abington football fans at Schwarzman Stadium. At the most recent Greenfield Youth Film Festival at the Keswick Theater our students brought home two of the three first place prizes, being judged against entries from nine other school districts in the region. Additional films – the "Rest of the Best" – were shown at the Ambler Theatre as well!

We know that Abington is a great place to live, learn, and work – and now *Money* readers know it again!

## GREAT NEWS!



### All Abington Schools Achieved No Child Left Behind's Adequate Yearly Progress!

We are pleased and proud that once again the school district and all Abington schools achieved their Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) goals. This is no small feat – it's a goal Abington's staff and students have worked very hard to achieve. But we cannot rest on our laurels – the AYP goals become more rigorous each year.

To see a presentation on the district's PSSA data, go to our website at [Abington.k12.pa.us](http://Abington.k12.pa.us) -> "About ASD" – "News & Events" -> "Curriculum & Instruction."

### Parent Involvement – an Ongoing, Important Theme

The theme of this year's school district calendar is parent involvement. The calendar presents a sampling of the many ways parents are increasingly involved in Abington schools to foster student success and increase student achievement. Research shows that school and school district activities that engage parents support increased student achievement.

**GET INVOLVED!** If you are a parent or guardian, there are many opportunities to become involved. Check out the parent group and parent activities at your child's elementary school ... join the more than 200 volunteers at the junior high school's Project Appleseed and other activities ... and watch for news about and join the increasing numbers of parents involved with the high school's parent groups.

## ListServ




### Be sure to sign up for our ListServ electronic mailing list

If you did not receive this via e-mail, make sure you are signed up with our ListServ electronic mailing list. Go to the bottom of our home page on our website ([www.abington.k12.pa.us](http://www.abington.k12.pa.us)) and click on Subscribe to E-Mail ListServ. Signing up for our ListServ is fast and easy ... and it will help you keep up with news, events, and announcements.

Abington School District is committed to complying fully with all Federal and state laws banning discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, age, veteran status and/or mental or physical handicap or disability in instructional programs, extracurricular activities, and employment practices. Any person who believes himself or herself to be a victim of discrimination by the school district should refer the matter to the attention of the building principal or area supervisor. If the matter is not resolved satisfactorily, it should be brought to the attention of the Superintendent of Schools. The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Director of Pupil Services, 970 Highland Avenue, Abington, PA 19001, 215-881-2505 or Director of Human Resources, 970 Highland Avenue, Abington, PA 19001, 215-881-2509

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