

EDUCATION

guide WINTER 2020



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WOODLYNDE SCHOOL

Woodlynde School architecture, engineering students survey construction

STRAFFORD » Always looking upwards and onwards, Woodlynde School is incorporating its campus project into the curriculum.

Students in Woodlynde School's architecture and engineering class got an up-close look at the construction, surveying the project and getting a formal tour of the building's ins and outs before it is finished.

"Giving our students real-world examples of how buildings are constructed and the precision it takes to pull something like this off is important," said Adam Kuper-smith, the class instructor. "It's one thing to talk about the physics, math and guiding principles

of construction in class, and quite another thing to see it in action. By inviting students to see the practical application of what they're learning in class, we're inspiring the future generation of engineers and architects."

Woodlynde School is undergoing a dramatic campus transformation.

"Our theme for the school year is Transforming Lives Since 1976," said Head of School Amy Clemons. "This first part of our multiphase campus expansion will include a new student commons; a state-of-the-art, glass-enclosed dining hall; an art gallery and indoor performance space; an outdoor amphitheater; new and improved class-

room spaces and teaching centers; and outdoor learning areas."

At a cost of \$10.8 million, Clemons also envisions the project as "a new place for community, both Woodlynde School's own as well as the community far beyond our campus," she said. "Yes, the commons will be a place for student dining, social activities and family programs, but it will also be the space where The Literacy Institute at Woodlynde School can host public conferences and world-renowned speakers in the fields of education and learning differences. Our learning specialists can provide new programming and training for fellow ed-

ucators. This is where Woodlynde School can be a trusted partner and resource for local conversations around the issues of student learning, family and education."

Clemons said: "Woodlynde School has always been future-focused, giving our students the tools and strategies that they need to succeed. Now, with this new campus project, we'll be ensuring our ability to continue this important work for decades to come."

The campus project is expected to be completed by fall this year.

Founded in 1976 and located in Strafford, Chester County, Woodlynde School welcomes and serves stu-



Woodlynde School is undergoing a dramatic campus transformation.

dents who learn differently and empowers them to become strategic thinkers and self-advocates in a challenging and supportive college preparatory environment. As an independent, coeducational school for grades K-12, Woodlynde School is nationally recognized for its expertise in helping students turn their learning differences into

learning success through rich and challenging academics; proven approaches to strategic learning; a vibrant and expansive student life program; and the development of knowledgeable, confident and accomplished young adults ready for success in college and in life. For more information, visit www.woodlynde.org.

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WEST CHESTER FRIENDS SCHOOL

West Chester Friends School's youngest students explore enriched art-, literature- and play-based experiences rooted in the Quaker values of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality and stewardship.

West Chester Friends School is an independent, Quaker school for children in preschool through fifth grade.

The school educates students of many faiths with an approach rooted in Quaker values, including respect for one another, self-discipline, peaceful conflict resolution and responsibility to the community.

Operating on historic Quaker Hill in the heart of the West Chester for more than 180 years, West Chester Friends School provides early childhood and elementary aged students with the essential foundation they require to become lifelong learners, contributing members of their communities and citizens of the world.

West Chester Friends School offers impressive advantages to students because it is small by design and dedicated exclusively to the education of children in preschool through fifth grade. Each classroom and specialty

area teacher is an expert in their field, as well as in the academic and social development of young children. At West Chester Friends School, every child is known and his or her unique intellectual gifts are celebrated and fostered.

The Friends Play School offers a joyous day of play and learning for Little Friends, who are three years old by September. West Chester Friends School's youngest students explore enriched art-, literature- and play-based experiences rooted in the Quaker values of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality and stewardship, or SPICES. Loving, experienced teachers model and encourage children to recognize emotions, express their feelings and needs verbally and be respectful of friends. Group play is designed to ensure that all children "shine their light."

Prekindergarten and kindergarten at WCFS offer a strong and joyful entry into school. Pre-primary faculty understand the innate curios-

ity and enthusiasm of young children and teach a curriculum that is both academic and play-based, accommodating the evolving pace and style with which young children learn throughout the year. Individual emergent reading and math skills are supported and developed, and students attend library, music, physical education, guidance and technology classes. Students regularly enjoy the outdoor classroom, resident hens, raised beds and bird garden.

Learning to read and write, and the development of math skills, are the primary tasks of first- and second-graders. Teachers know each child's strengths and challenges in language arts and work throughout the year to respond to particular interests and needs. Young writers create from their own experience, focusing on narrative form. In mathematics, children work in a hands-on environment, frequently using manipulatives to move from concrete to more abstract concepts as they become confident problem-solvers.

The development of excellent work habits and effective study skills is a central task of students in third and fourth grades. As students continue their intellectual development, academic expectations progressively increase, from homework that begins in earnest in third grade, through the monthly book reports of fourth grade. Students are guided by their teachers to become confident, independent learners.

The fifth grade year at WCFS brings together all of the academic, social and spiritual growth each student has experienced during their school years. Through their work with experienced and dedicated faculty, fifth-graders have become young people who think critically and challenge assumptions, who reach out to others and have a sense of responsibility to the community and who

draw upon their WCFS experiences to conduct themselves with integrity and conviction.

Students at every grade level extend the exploration and discovery of their talents and abilities with the help of skilled specialists. Children come to The Treetop Library to hear stories selected from the exemplary collection, learn the skills needed to conduct research and enjoy lessons infused with the librarian's expertise in art history. The study of Spanish language and culture is offered in preschool and continues through fifth grade. Art, music and theater support the classroom curriculum, as students of all ages sing, play instruments and perform in concerts and plays.

Physical Education promotes good health and fitness for life, learning new skills and having active fun together. Science is an integral part of

the WCFS curriculum beginning in play school, and culminating in the fifth-graders' daily studies in the Science Lab. Technology skills are introduced to support the overall curriculum, which allows students to present what they know and learn. Guidance faculty meet with individual classes each week to discuss with students the issues that are both universal to young children and particular to the group. Quakerism is taught using storytelling to prompt discussion around Friends values and decision-making.

As students move through their elementary years at West Chester Friends School, classroom teachers and specialists encourage students to be active participants in their education and to understand their own unique learning styles. With teacher support, students work toward strength-

ening the intellectual confidence and academic independence they will need to be in middle school and throughout their life of learning. Graduates go on to be successful at area public, parochial and independent schools.

West Chester Friends School is committed to ensuring that all members of the school community, including children, families, faculty, staff, and volunteers, are accepted, included, respected, embraced and celebrated. We are all unique individuals and bring value to as well as enrich WCFS through our diversity. We believe that inclusion is everyone's responsibility.

We would love to welcome you and your child to campus for a tour. Please call Barbara Rowe, director of admissions, at 610-696-2937, email her at admissions@wcfriends.org or visit www.wcfriends.org.



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BISHOP SHANAHAN HIGH SCHOOL

Bishop Shanahan High School prepares scholars, able leaders

Bishop Shanahan High School is known for students who are prepared to be confident scholars, able leaders and critical thinkers in a rapidly evolving global world.

Opportunities such as DECA Inc. — formerly Distributive Education Clubs of America, an international business organization — help students to develop a wide variety of interests and skills. Bishop Shanahan was the first diocesan DECA chapter in Pennsylvania and has become a popular club in which students network, investigate the business world and consider pursuing business majors and careers.

This year, more than 100 BSHS students com-

peted alongside 650 others at the District 9 Career Development Conference in King of Prussia, Montgomery County. The competition gave students the opportunity to acquire skills needed by emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. Students competed in event categories, including travel and tourism team decision-making, personal finance literacy, retail merchandising series and food services marketing.

The competition is unique. After participating in a multiple choice test, students participated in role-play situations and were rated on their performance by local business

owners. Thirty Shanahan students qualified to compete at the state career development conference and an additional 20 students will submit written projects and presentations.

Come and see for yourself what DECA and BSHS is all about. There are many opportunities to visit before the 2019-2020 school year is finished. Seventh-grade students are invited to Visitation Day on Wednesday, March 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Eighth-grade students are welcome to participate in a Shadow Day through May. Students of all ages and their families are welcome to the spring open house on Wednesday, April 1 from 7 to 9 p.m. Learn more at www.shanahan.org.



Bishop Shanahan High School students have been recognized as confident scholars, able leaders and critical thinkers in a rapidly evolving global world.



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DEVEREUX ADVANCED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health unlocks human potential in students, staff

If you are searching for the highest-quality approved private school for your child with special needs, or if you are looking for a rewarding career opportunity, Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health is your answer.

Devereux — one of the largest and most advanced behavioral health care non-profit organizations in the country — serves many of the most vulnerable members of our society in the areas of autism, intellectual and developmental disabilities, specialty mental health and child welfare.

As part of its mission to unlock human potential in people living with emotional, behavioral and cognitive differences, Devereux

also wants to help its students and employees grow and flourish.

Located throughout Chester County, Devereux Pennsylvania's approved private schools support youth with emotional, behavioral and cognitive differences in discovering their unique strengths in a caring, nurturing and structured environment. Our comprehensive curriculum focuses on helping students develop skills that will enable them to live as healthy and socially-connected individuals within their communities.

Devereux Pennsylvania's schools include:

Brandywine School (day/residential): Grades 1-12, youth with learning dis-

abilities and emotional disturbances.

The Center for Autism Research and Education Services (CARES) day: Co-ed youth, ages 5 to 21, with autism spectrum disorders, learning disabilities and speech/language disorders.

Children's Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Services Learning Center (day/residential): Co-ed youth, ages 6 to 21, with ASD, intellectual/multiple disabilities, emotional disturbances and speech/language disorders.

Mapleton School (day and residential): Grades 1-12; co-ed youth with ASD, emotional disturbances and learning disabilities.

The schools are licensed

by the Pennsylvania State Board of Private Academic Schools and accept 4,010 placements. Visit www.devereuxpa.org for details.

When it comes to finding the right talent, Devereux is looking for individuals who have the compassion and desire to make a positive impact in the lives of others. Devereux provides multiple options to meet career interests. Opportunities include direct-support professionals, case coordinators/managers, special education teachers, clinicians, nurses and more.

So why should you join Devereux?

We believe providing the highest quality care for the individuals we serve starts



ADOBE STOCK

Devereux's approved private schools support youth with emotional, behavioral and cognitive differences.

with caring for our employees. Benefits include:

Best-in-class medical, prescription and dental plan choices, plus voluntary plans (for example, vision, life and supplemental insurance).

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Professional development and career planning.

Generous paid time-off and health medical leave.

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To search for available jobs, visit <http://jobs.devereux.org>.

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MENTORING

Learn how to be a better mentor

Metro

Mentors can have profound impacts on the lives of the people they mentor. A mentor is often a source of wisdom and support over the course of

months or even years. The relationship between mentor and mentee can endure as long as each person desires.

Serving as a mentor can be rewarding. Certain traits and practices set mentors apart.

Those who want to be mentors can follow these tips:

Be a good and active listener: Mentors help mentees navigate the tricky waters of life but will not solve all problems. Mentors need to listen

to what mentees say, meaning good listening skills are an essential trait for prospective mentors. After listening, mentors can provide a host of solutions, though ultimately it is up to the mentee to find his or her own path.

Meld with the mentee: Mentors and their mentees need to be close and compatible. A good mentor will not try to manipulate or influence decisions, but realize that support and guidance are the best ways to get messages across. Asking a lot of questions and truly getting to know the mentee can set a strong foundation for the relationship.

Emphasize learning: Mentors realize that continuing education is vital to success. Good mentors tend to be lifelong learners who share the lessons they've learned with the people they mentor. Even



METRO

Honesty, listening skills, a lifelong desire to learn, and the ability to mesh with a mentee are all qualities of solid mentors.

though they may not always be experts, mentors try to be as informed as possible on topics that relate to the mentorship.

Set expectations: It is one thing to provide support, but mentors also should inspire their mentees to work hard. Once mentees cite their goals, good mentors will share their own expectations and goals for their mentees, even going so far as to offer advice as to

how to achieve those goals.

Deliver honest feedback: Good mentors will not sugarcoat feedback in order to stay in their mentees' good graces. A mentor should aspire to be both a critic and a coach. Even though mentees may want to garner praise, mentors know it is important to say what others may not be willing to say. With the right feedback, mentees can flourish.



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SAINT MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL AND AGNUS DEI ACADEMY

Want a great education for your child, with dedicated teachers?

A child's elementary school years are the most crucial part of their education. They are the foundation upon which all future understanding is based.

At Saint Mary Catholic School and Agnus Dei Academy, we are proud of our 60-year history and reputation for academic excellence. We educate students in grades pre-K through K-3, and through eighth grade. Our student population is drawn from five parishes and more than six different school districts. Our school population is comprised of a diverse mix of social, economic and ethnic backgrounds.

At Saint Mary Catholic School, we offer a challenging program of instruction that will leave your child with a strong academic background for middle school, high school and beyond. For the 2019-2020 school year, Saint Mary Catholic School had two Neumann Scholarship winners, which provides each of them with a full-tuition scholarship for four years at an Archdiocesan Catholic High School of their choice.

We're committed to providing instruction, learning support and enrichment, all of which engage students in active learning, allowing them to discover their unique God-given gifts through a wide variety of opportunities. We encourage students to be courageous risk takers and dreamers.

Saint Mary Catholic School is accredited by the Middle States Associations of Colleges and Schools. We have a highly-qualified, dedicated teaching staff that have a combined 367 years



of teaching experience. Our teachers are certified by the commonwealth of Pennsylvania and possess bachelor's and, in many cases, master's degrees. We are committed to maintaining a faculty dedicated to their Catholic faith, and highly trained, skilled and knowledgeable in their individual disciplines.

At Saint Mary Catholic School, we are focused on small class size for our early primary classes. In grades K-4, our student/teacher ratio is 11:1. We understand that small class size alone does not ensure a good education, but it does give each student more individualized attention, and teachers the opportunity to instruct to the strengths and abilities of each child. We are blessed to have a faculty that live their Catholic faith by dedicated years to Saint Mary School and their profession.

This year, Saint Mary Catholic School introduced the Maker Space program for Grades 1-8. There is a dedicated classroom specifically for Maker Space, where stu-

At Saint Mary Catholic School, students can creatively explore, engineer, invent and delve into design challenges. They also have the opportunity to explore their own interests, direct their own learning and become divergent thinkers and problem-solvers.

dents can creatively explore, engineer, invent and delve into design challenges. They also have the opportunity to explore their own interests, direct their own learning

and become divergent thinkers and problem-solvers.

At Saint Mary Catholic School, we recognize that all children are created in the image and likeness of God, each gifted with unique talents and abilities. Our performing arts program is rich in providing a variety of opportunities for all of our students. Students are encouraged to participate in several music and drama opportunities, including two school choirs, a fall play, a Christmas pageant, a spring musical, a dinner theater and

a talent show. Our fine arts program teaches a variety of techniques in different mediums, which encourage our students to enrich their creative talent and help motivate a higher level for thinking and creative writing.

We invite you to learn more about Saint Mary Catholic School and Agnus Dei Academy, 40 Spring Mount Road, Schwenksville. Visit www.smsk-8.org. To arrange a private tour, contact Suzette Moyer at smoyer@smsk-8.org or call 610-287-7757, ext. 244.



Registration for Kindergarten and First Grade Students

New to T/E

2020

Registration for kindergarten and first grade students new to T/E School District will take place in each elementary school according to attendance areas. Information regarding school attendance areas may be obtained by calling the Transportation Department at 610/240-1680.

Children are eligible to attend kindergarten if they have reached the age of five years on or before September 1. Children who have reached the age of six years on or before September 1 will normally be enrolled in first grade.

Official birth certificate with raised seal, verification of immunizations for diphtheria-tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B and varicella, or verification that the child has had chicken pox, along with 2 proofs of residency are required in order to complete registration.

Registration will be 9:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. on these dates:

Beaumont:	January 27-28, 2020	(Phone: 610/240-1400)
Devon:	February 12-13, 2020	(Phone: 610/240-1450)
Hillside:	January 27-28, 2020	(Phone: 610/240-1500)
New Eagle:	January 30-31, 2020	(Phone: 610/240-1550)
Valley Forge:	January 29-30, 2020	(Phone: 610/240-1600)

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WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

West Chester Area School District to launch cyber program

WEST CHESTER — The West Chester Area School District (WCASD) recognizes the need for choice in education because there is no one-size-fits-all approach to learning.

The WC Cyber Program (WC Cyber) is a new and smarter approach to online learning. WCASD's rich history of tradition and academic success is now at your fingertips.

Beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, WCASD's top-ranked education will be available online for students in grades six and nine,

Beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, WCASD's top-ranked education will be available online for students in grades six and nine, providing a higher quality, flexible education that fits the needs of children and their families.

providing a higher quality, flexible education that fits the needs of children and their families. WC Cyber will be available to students in grades 7 and 10 in the 2021-2022 school year and grades 8, 11 and 12 in the 2022-2023

school year.

Data show that student academic performance at Pennsylvania's 15 cyber charter schools falls short compared to traditional public school students.

"We want our district to be the school of choice for any student living in our community," said Dr. Jim Scanlon, WCASD superintendent. "Many students in our community choose to attend a cyber-charter school simply because we did not offer an online diploma from our high schools. Now we do, and I believe our program, with our teachers and all of our support services, will prove to be a more comprehensive choice for students who want a cyber-education."

WC Cyber focuses on the whole student, providing a robust online curriculum created and taught by highly qualified WCASD educators.

While enrolled in WC Cyber, students have full access to WCASD student support services, athletics, clubs, extracurricular activities, an award-winning music program and more. Upon graduation, WC Cyber students will continue on their journey, backed by a WCASD diploma.

For more information on WC Cyber, or to enroll, visit <https://www.wcasd.net/domain/6119>.



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SAVING FOR COLLEGE

Learn the best ways to build a college fund

Metro

College is the next logical step for many newly minted high school graduates.

The National Center for Education Statistics indicated that, in fall 2019, roughly 19.9 million students were slated to attend colleges and universities in the United States. Statistics Canada stated that, for the 2015-2016 school year, the most recent for school statistics, just over two million students were enrolled in Canadian universities and colleges.

Families need to begin thinking about how to pay for college as early as possible. According to the Wall Street Journal, the average college graduate's student loan debt is \$37,172. And

the most recent data from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York indicates the overall student loan debt in America alone is roughly \$1.3 trillion. The average expense of sending a child to college has been rising at double the rate of inflation for more than a decade, offers CNBC.

A robust college savings account can help future students avoid considerable debt. The following are some ways to save for college:

Open a tax-advantaged 529 college savings plan: The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission says a 529 is a savings plan designed to encourage saving for future education costs. The person funding the account pays taxes on the



METRO

Starting early can give families ample time to save substantial amounts of money for youngsters' college educations.

money before it's contributed to the 529 plan. Funds can be used for education expenses. There are two types of 529 plans: prepaid tuition plans and education

savings plans. The prepaid plans allow account holders to purchase units or credits at participating colleges and universities. With education savings plans, ac-

count holders open investment accounts to save for qualified future higher education expenses, including room and board.

Invest in a Coverdell education savings account: A Coverdell account is a tax-advantaged method to contribute up to \$2,000 per year to a child's account. Individuals need to be under a certain income level to contribute. The funds will grow free of federal taxes.

Consider a uniform transfer/gift-to-minors account: This is a custodial account that holds and protects assets for beneficiaries, who are typically donors' children. The custodian controls the assets until the minor reaches legal age. The money will not

grow tax-free, and it can be used for purposes other than school expenses. The account also may count against the student and parent when applying for financial aid, which is something to keep in mind.

Open an IRA: IRAs are often associated strictly with retirement savings. However, they also can be used for qualified college payments as long as the contributions have been made for at least five years, advises Nationwide Insurance.

Use a standard savings account: Even though it may not grow as quickly as investment accounts, routinely saving money in a savings account can be another means to saving for college.



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LEARNING APPS

Check out these classroom learning apps

Metro

It is impossible to ignore the immense popularity of digital learning tools in today's schools. Teachers routinely turn to online tools and available applications to offer students all the resources they need to become well-rounded individuals.

According to research from Grunwald Associates LLC, 71 percent of parents embrace mobile devices and believe they open up learning opportunities for kids that didn't previously exist. The research also suggests that a similar percentage of parents would like teachers to recommend apps for students.

Navigating learning apps can be daunting because of the sheer volume of apps available. The following are some apps parents may want to consider:

MEMRISE: Learning a second or third language can be a boon to students of any age. Some schools may be limited in the number of languages they offer. Therefore, an app may be a great resource for students looking to learn a new language. Memrise drills students on vocabulary, phrases, aural recognition and more.

KAHOOT: Kahoot is a platform to create games and review content. Players answer questions on their individual devices, while games are displayed on a shared screen. Kahoot can be an ideal way for several students to prepare for a test in a digital study session.

READING EGGS: This comprehensive learning system covers essential components of reading: awareness, vocabulary, phonics, fluency and comprehension. Parents can see progress reports and

know if and where extra attention may be necessary.

EDMODO: This app is designed to streamline workloads for teachers and help make it easier for them to stay connected with the classroom and their students. Parents can set up accounts and stay abreast of their children's activities, grades, messages and progress.

EPIC: This online children's subscription book service offers immediate, on-demand access to high-quality reading materials for children ages 12 and under.

PHOTOMATH: This app enables students to snap pictures of complicated math problems and get step-by-step directions on how to answer them. Instead of simply giving the answer, Photomath provides students with the tools to answer the problems on their own.

West Chester Area School District

Educating & Inspiring Students to Achieve Their Personal Best

Superintendent - Dr. Jim Scanlon

- Ten Elementary, three middle, & three high schools
- 1:1 Computer Initiative
- Music, art & athletic opportunities
- Blended Learning & WCU Dual Enrollment classes offered
- Comprehensive & challenging academic curriculum
- Business & vocational programs
- Comprehensive Student Wellness Services
- Dedicated & skilled teaching staff
- New WC Cyber Program coming in 2020-2021
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Join us for our **OPEN HOUSE** on Sunday,
January 26, 2020 at 1:00 PM
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WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

Frontage Laboratories donates to West Chester's new biomed program

WEST CHESTER — Dr. Song Li, chairman and founder of Frontage Laboratories Inc., recently presented a \$200,000 personal check to West Chester University President Christopher Fiorentino to endow the Lei and Song Li Scholarship for Biomedical Engineering at WCU for students planning to pursue their studies in the university's new biomedical engineering degree program.

Li founded Frontage Laboratories Inc. in 2001 with the ambition of building a client-focused organization to help solve the most complex drug development challenges. Prior to Frontage, Li held management positions at Great Valley Pharmaceuticals and Wyeth. During this time, he led numerous projects related to the development of pharmaceutical products. Most recently, Li received the Healthcare CEO award from Philadelphia Alliance for Capital and Technologies, Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award, the Realizing the American Dream Award from the Pennsylvania Welcoming Society and the Outstanding 50 Asian Americans in Business Award from the Asian American Business Development Center.

"West Chester University is honored to be the recipient of such a generous gift," Fiorentino said. "At a time when the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics projects a 23% growth in the number of biomedical jobs needed by 2024, Dr. Li's gift will help cultivate the next generation of biomedical scientists at West Chester University. We are deeply grateful."

WCU's new Bachelor of Science in Engineer-



At a recent check presentation at West Chester University are, from left, Dr. Jesse Placone, faculty, biomedical engineering; Helen Hammerschmidt, West Chester University Foundation, director of corporate and foundation relations; Dr. Zhongping Huang, department chair, biomedical engineering; Anna Carroll, WCU student, biomedical engineering; Dr. Song Li, CEO, Frontage Laboratories Inc.; Wendy Li, Dr. Li's daughter and a doctoral student at the University of Wisconsin; West Chester University President Christopher Fiorentino; Dr. Tony Nicasro, department chair, physics; JC Atienza, WCU student, biomedical engineering; and Dr. Radha Pyati, dean, West Chester University College of the Sciences and Mathematics.

ing Degree Program offers tracks in biosystems, bioinstrumentation and imaging; biomolecular and biochemical studies; biomechanics; and biomaterials and tissues. All of the required core classes are offered through the department of physics and engineering in the University's College of the Sciences and Mathematics.

The new program, launched in the fall, will have a permanent home in the new 176,000-square-foot, \$130 million Sciences & Engineering Center and The Commons that is being constructed on campus. The Sciences & Engineering Center and The Commons is the largest building project in the university's 148-year history. In addition to housing the new Biomedical Engineering Degree Program, the building will be home to

the university's rapidly growing health science curricula, physics and expansive academic and support space. The Sciences & Engineering Center and The Commons is scheduled to open at West Chester University in the fall.

Enrolling more than 17,000 students, West Chester University is the largest member of the 14-institution Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. Founded in 1871, the university is a comprehensive public institution, offering a diverse range of more than 200 undergraduate, master's and doctoral programs in more than 50 fields of study. In addition to the main campus in West Chester, the University offers programs through its graduate center, the campus in Philadelphia and online. Visit www.wcupa.edu.

ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA EDUCATION CENTER

St. Teresa of Calcutta Education Center's program speaks for itself



At St. Teresa of Calcutta Education Center, we go to great lengths to ensure we are the perfect fit for your family.

Parents have many factors to consider when choosing a school for their child.

At St. Teresa of Calcutta Education Center, we go to great lengths to ensure we are the perfect fit for your family.

Our education center houses a child care and preschool program as well as a school for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. We also have a CARES program that provides before-and-after care for students.

Our academic program speaks for itself. In 2017, our school was recognized with the National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award. Our academic performance was ranked in the top 15% in the nation. This prestigious award is based on student performance on the Terra Nova Standardized tests. In 2019,

we were again awarded for our academic performance as an Archdiocesan School of Distinguished Education. This award recognized the growth of our students by 95% at every grade level tested in every content area for more than two consecutive years on the Terra Nova standardized tests.

These awards would not be possible without our outstanding faculty and staff and their passion for teaching. They truly care about our students and their growth, academically, socially and spiritually. Their devotion to students can be witnessed on a daily basis, in and out of the classroom.

Our average class size is 22 students, and we provide classroom aides for our kindergarten. The smaller class sizes and extra assistance ensures

student success as well as academic achievement. Students also experience a sense of community in a smaller class size. The STC community often becomes an extension of your family.

We understand many families make sacrifices to send their children to Catholic school. St. Teresa of Calcutta School offers financial assistance to qualifying families. We have been blessed with a substantial amount of financial aid this year and are encouraging all families to apply.

Join us for our open house on Sunday, Jan. 26 at 1 p.m. Come meet our teachers, take a tour of the school and join our family at 256 Swamp Pike, Schwenksville. Visit www.stcschool.com. For more information and/or a personal tour of our school, call 610-287-2500.

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MEDIA-PROVIDENCE FRIENDS SCHOOL

Media-Providence Friends School students celebrate International Day of Peace

Students from preschool through eighth grade at Media-Providence Friends School in Media, Delaware County, honored International Day of Peace with an all-school assembly that included a meditation on water and its meaning in our lives and queries for reflection on protecting our planet.

The assembly also included presentations of individual climate action statements by each stu-

dent shown with themed artwork, a unity paper quilt symbolizing community through individual squares created by Middle School students and postcards written to students in El Paso, Texas, conveying empathy for the violence their community has experienced.

Finally, students in middle school, accompanied by kindergarten and first graders, led a performance of the song "With My Own

Two Hands" by Playing For Change. After the assembly, fourth- to eighth-grade students participated in a climate action march to the Delaware County courthouse with signs and banners they created themselves about the importance of climate action.

Media-Providence Friends School is a Quaker day school for students age 3 through grade 8, providing a challenging academic program infused with val-



COURTESY OF MEDIA-PROVIDENCE FRIENDS SCHOOL

Media-Providence Friends School students in fourth to eighth grade initiated a climate march by creating their own signs and banners and organizing a march from the classroom to the Delaware County courthouse in Media.

ues. Community involvement and service play an integral part in the curriculum, connecting MPFS students with the larger

world.

To learn more, visit www.mpf.org or contact Angela DiMaria, assistant head of school and director of ad-

missions and academic program at 610-565-1960, ext. 104 to schedule a personal tour or by visiting www.mpf.org/visit.



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8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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Wednesday, April 1, 2020
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

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ACADEMY OF NOTRE DAME DE NAMUR

Spotlight on the arts at Notre Dame

At the Academy of Notre Dame de Namur in Villanova, the arts — and the Academy's talented artists — are thriving.

Two out of three students engage in the creative arts, exploring and sharing their talents as dancers, artists, singers, musical performers, instrumentalists and more.

Notre Dame offers students a comprehensive, curricular dance program. Dance classes are offered from sixth grade through high school. At the middle school level, dance is a required course, and students who excel in the study of dance can participate in the Academy's middle-school dance company. Upper-school students elect dance classes and audition for the Academy's Dance Company.

All sixth-, seventh-, eighth- and ninth-grade students have art classes each year. After ninth grade, students can continue in an elective or major program. The visual arts curriculum includes drawing and painting, ceramics, photography and advanced placement-level study. Field trips offer students the opportunity to explore the arts beyond the classroom.

Notre Dame offers three choirs for students, in addition to required music classes for all sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students. At the middle-school level, students may elect to join middle-school women's chorale. Upper-school students can enroll in the Notre Dame Nightingales or choose to audition for women's chorale. Students of all grades may choose to sing in the Academy's liturgical choir or participate as cantors at masses throughout the year.

The Academy's middle-school and high-school instrumental ensembles offer students who play string and wind instruments the opportunity to perform in concerts on campus and at special events. Choral and instrumental students also have the opportunity to audition for and participate in all-Catholic music festivals sponsored by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

The Theater Program includes a high school musical in the fall, a middle-school musical in the winter and an all-school play in the spring. Students who want to be involved in theater, but

not as a performer, can join stage crew to design props and scenery or manage lighting and sound equipment. In the fall, the high school performed a three-night, sold-out performance of *Mamma Mia!* The middle school will present *Frozen Jr.*, in February.

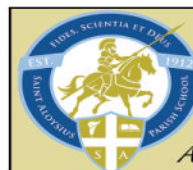
Student works are published in the Academy's literary magazine, *Tournesol*. Students participate in the annual writing competitions, earning recognition for their written and visual work.

For students who want to engage more deeply in a rigorous course of study specifically designed for continued study at the collegiate level in their discipline, Notre Dame offers an arts scholar program to connect students with the creation and performance of art with its academic study. Requirements for successful completion of the program include academic, cultural and academic experiences, performance or publication of completed works and an arts portfolio.

To learn more about the arts at Notre Dame, visit www.ndapa.org.



The Academy of Notre Dame de Namur in Villanova offers students a comprehensive, curricular dance program.



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