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GUIDE



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KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

Kutztown University focuses on its students succeeding

Kutztown University

Kutztown University supports students' academic and personal development by providing high-quality services that will help students make the most of their time at KU. Whether students need guidance with a paper or resume, or require a tutor for a certain class, the university has an office to offer the support they need.

The Student Success Center holds workshops throughout each semester to teach strategies such as time management, test-taking, note-taking and textbook reading, including how to implement these skills in both in-person and online environments.



BEN HASTY — READING EAGLE
Old Main on the campus of Kutztown University.

"Our offices and services work with intentionality and with a commitment to helping every

student succeed, develop and graduate with a Kutztown University degree," said Donovan McCargo, dean of students. "When our students are successful and reach their goals, they ultimately become equipped to transcend change and lead in our communities, our workplaces and the world."

In addition, the center offers the KU Succeed program, which strives to increase the retention and graduation rate of students who may need extra academic support. The program focuses on students' individual needs and offers specialized advising and other assistance that has proven beneficial to students as they pursue their degrees at KU.

Not only does Kutz-

town offer educational help, but also emotional, cultural and physical support. The Multicultural Center provides activities and services focusing on the exploration of cultural and racial identity, awareness and social exchange, as well as assists with personal and academic growth and development of leadership skills. Its goal is to provide a safe environment conducive to and encompassing the concepts of community and unity.

Kutztown University offers more than 130 undergraduate programs of study in the Colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Visual and Performing Arts, Business and Education. Learn more at www.kutztown.edu.

MONTGOMERY SCHOOL

Montgomery School opens new creek classroom

Montgomery School

Montgomery School, a PreK-8 independent private school in Chester Springs, celebrated its new creek classroom with a ribbon cutting ceremony in the spring.

The event was held to celebrate the completion of the creek classroom, called Tír Na Nóg (Land of the Young).

Situated just above Pickering Creek, Tír Na Nóg features a stone patio, park benches and wooden birdhouses, all surrounded by nature's beautiful landscape.

Funded by a generous donor from Montgomery School's community, this new beautiful creek overlook allows students to effortlessly enter Pickering Creek.

Here is where they go to obtain water samples, conduct pH and nitrate test-

ing and perform their annual trout release as they learn about the ecosystem in science class.

Many plants have been added to the area that will encourage pollination, attract butterflies, and encourage new habitats for the students to observe, providing a great extension of environmental science and biology experienced in and along the creek.

Montgomery School Board of Trustees Chairwoman Staci Williams Seeley and other board members, faculty, students and administrators attended.

Montgomery School ignites each child's love of learning and fosters their individual talents during the most formative years in order to prepare them for future success. To learn more about Montgomery School, please visit www.montgomeryschool.org.

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IN-PERSON LEARNING

Easing students' anxieties as they return to the classroom

StatePoint

When it comes to the emotional well-being of students post-pandemic, a new study reveals that teachers expect significant challenges when schools make a full return to in-person learning.

The study, commissioned by the Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI), the world leader in de-escalation training, shows that 84% of teachers say student trauma, mental health issues and increased anxiety are their biggest concerns with full classroom re-entry.

"Many of those in school

communities have faced adversity and trauma, ranging from upended routines to home isolation and loss of family members. Simply restarting school won't erase the aftereffects," says Susan Driscoll, president of CPI.

In many cases, the past year has simply exacerbated issues that predate COVID-19. It's estimated that prior to the pandemic, nearly half of all students in the U.S. had experienced some form of trauma, according to the nonprofit research organization, WestEd.

Driscoll says that while the federal government's COVID CARES Act will pro-

vide essential financial support at the district level, at the individual level, families and teachers are in a position to help make the transition as smooth and successful as possible.

"Ideally, all individuals in a student's life will be aligned in helping them prepare for their return to school," she says.

Having trained more than 15 million individuals over four decades in its techniques, CPI is lending its unique knowledge during this transitional period. Here are some of the organization's top tips for teachers and parents who are busy making prepara-

tions for the return to in-person learning:

• **CREATE A GOOD LEARNING ENVIRONMENT»** Classrooms should be well-organized and structured, but also welcoming to reestablish a familiar routine.

• **LISTEN EMPATHETICALLY»** Offer your undivided attention, then provide thoughtful, nonjudgmental feedback.

• **REBUILD TRUST»** In a recent survey by the American Federation of Teachers and the New York Life Foundation, only 15% of educators said they feel very

comfortable addressing students' emotional needs caused or intensified by the coronavirus outbreak. While teachers may feel a bit unprepared in this area, making it clear to students that sharing their feelings and concerns is appreciated and encouraged will go a long way.

• **ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR OWN ANXIETY»** Take the time to understand the reasons you are feeling anxious and seek a positive outlet.

Additionally, CPI has created educator-specific supplemental content to its Nonviolent Crisis Interven-

tion training. That training, which is approved for stimulus related federal funding via the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund, will focus specifically on recognizing the stages of an escalating crisis, as well as learning evidence-based techniques to appropriately de-escalate.

During its 40-year history, CPI has trained more than 55,000 educators worldwide in non-violent crisis techniques that assist with de-escalating and managing heightened school situations. To learn more, visit crisisprevention.com/About-Us.

ALBRIGHT COLLEGE

Science Research Institute drives renovation of Albright College Camp Building

Albright College

Working with local Reading AEM Architects, Albright College and the Science Research Institute located on Albright's campus are moving forward with plans to renovate the spacious Leo Camp Building, 1801 N. 12th Street, Reading, into a state-of-the-art facility optimized for experiential learning, elite training, technological exploration and community engagement.

The nonprofit Science Research Institute (SRI) for K-12 grade students is financially supported by more than 80 organizations nationwide, spanning businesses, scientific industry groups, higher education, professional organizations and foundations.

"Science Research Institute is one of the most exciting projects driving the reinvention of Berks County as a hub of innovation and creativity," said Kevin Murphy, president and CEO of the Berks County Community Foundation. "Making the Camp Building into a home worthy of that effort will ac-

celerate our progress and allow us to expand the number of students who can participate."

Slated to be completed in June 2022, the Science Research Institute Camp Building renovation will include 25,000 square feet of state-of-the-art science and technology laboratory and research spaces, designed to create an environment that encourages innovation, complemented by access to research-grade equipment, exposure to cutting-edge technology and introductions to modern sciences by skilled mentors.

"A unique combination of industry-grade equipment and safety features designed specifically for middle and high school students will make this facility a one-of-a-kind in the United States," said Adelle L. Schade, dean of pre-college and summer programs and director of SRI at Albright.

The building will feature hands-on experiences via several high-level scientific resources:



COURTESY OF ALBRIGHT COLLEGE

A conceptual rendering of the Albright College Camp Building renovation.

- Materials and glass science laboratory
- Advanced imaging equipment (electron microscope, confocal and fluorescence imaging)
- A greenhouse to incorporate horticulture and agricultural sciences
- Laboratories dedicated to computer science, 3D printing and design, histology, etc.
- Large common areas to encourage interaction and collaboration

Later phases will expand Science Research Institute's footprint within the building and add spaces that support some of Albright College's most creative and innovative programs and STEAM

disciplines for more synergistic SRI collaborations. These projections include a flexible theater performance area, classrooms, laboratories and studio spaces for music industry studies, fashion merchandising and digital communications.

"As the oldest college in Reading, Pa., Albright College's longstanding commitment to science and workforce development continues today," said Provost Karen A. Campbell, Ph.D., senior vice president for academic affairs, faculty dean and P. Kenneth Nase chair of biology at Albright. "We are committed to educating students of academic promise and to

enhancing Reading's reputation as an innovation center."

SRI expanded to the Albright College campus in February 2020. The expansion was a natural progression; Albright College students have served as interns and mentors to the program's middle and high school students since SRI's inception in 2015.

Offered during and after school hours as well as in the summer, SRI programs encourage K-12 grade students to create self-directed research projects in biomedical, genetic, environmental, agricultural, biotechnology and materials sciences. Students can also participate via dance, art, music, the humanities, culinary arts and fashion.

This year, Albright College enhanced its dual enrollment program, allowing 11th and 12th-grade students to earn college credit for their participation in SRI, when accompanying it with a college course.

Since SRI's inception, enrollment has increased by 800% and the program

has been recognized nationally and internationally for STEAM education. Nine students have pending or provisional patents for their SRI projects.

"SRI is successful because it guides students in building visionary projects and products," Schade said. "We also assist students in protecting their intellectual property and understanding business opportunities that might be available as a result of their efforts."

Founded in 1856, Albright College is a diverse community of learners cultivating integrity, curiosity, connection and resilience. The college's flexible curriculum encourages students to combine and cross majors to create individualized academic programs. Close faculty mentorship and numerous experiential learning options create opportunities for Albright graduates to exceed their own expectations. Albright enrolls more than 1,700 full-time undergraduates, adult learners and graduate students.



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PRESCHOOL

Agnus Dei Academy, St. Mary Catholic School aim to build bright futures

Agnus Dei Academy

Discover a fascinating world of learning and combined play in a fun, safe environment at Agnus Dei Academy, a preparatory preschool program designed to meet the needs of children ages 3 and 4.

From the beginning, St. Mary Catholic School partners with parents to inspire their children to grow spiritually, emotionally and academically. Classes are in-person, with a team of compassionate and experienced Catholic educators.

Agnus Dei Academy is designed for a child:

- TO MASTER SKILLS
- TO INSPIRE AND NURTURE THEIR INNATE CURIOSITY FOR LEARNING
- TO FIND FUN AND JOY IN LEARNING
- TO BECOME CREATIVE AND INDEPENDENT THINKERS
- TO PROMOTE AND NUR-

TURE THE INTELLECTUAL GROWTH AND TALENTS OF YOUR CHILD

Agnus Dei Academy of St. Mary Catholic School's mission is to assist a child to grow in mind, body and spirit by providing a quality child-centered learning environment that seeks to educate the whole child in a loving and caring atmosphere. We partner with the parent in developing the whole child, fostering a love of learning, encouraging independence and imagination.

Agnus Dei Academy's curriculum is integrated into all aspects of your child's learning experience and is a center-based, hands on learning program that promotes and nurtures the intellectual growth and talents of each child in a fun, creative, and loving environment. Our programs are flexible and can be combined to create a full-day

or part-time program for your 3- or 4-year-old child.

Your life journey then continues to St. Mary Catholic School, grades K-8. These years are the most crucial part of your child's education. They are the foundation upon which all future understanding is based. We partner with you by providing learning opportunities that motivate students to achieve their greatest potential.

We're committed to providing instruction, learning support and enrichment that engage students in active learning, allowing them to discover their unique God-given gifts through a wide variety of opportunities. We encourage our students to be courageous leaders and independent thinkers.

At Agnus Dei Academy Preschool 3's and 4's and St. Mary Catholic School K-8, we offer a challeng-



COURTESY OF ST. MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Agnus Dei Academy of St. Mary Catholic School's mission is to assist a child to grow in mind, body and spirit by providing a quality child-centered learning environment that seeks to educate the whole child in a loving and caring atmosphere.

ing program of instruction that will leave your child with a strong academic background for their high school years, and beyond.

Our academic program is complemented with a

unique fine arts program, offering theater, voice, music instruction and performance and a kiln for pottery which has become a popular aspect of our art classes. We encourage col-

laboration, innovation and creative thinking in all of our classes.

As proud as we are of students' achievements, we seek more than academic success. Catholic values and truths in faith, knowledge and service are the pillars of our beliefs. These pillars help build a stable, unshakeable foundation of a lifetime.

At St. Mary Catholic School (K-8) and Agnus Dei Academy (3- and 4-year-old preparatory program), we are building bright futures, learning today and leading tomorrow.

We invite you to learn more about Agnus Dei Academy and St. Mary Catholic School. To arrange a private tour, contact Suzette Moyer at smoyer@smsk-8.org or call 610-287-7757, ext. 244. We are located at 40 Spring Mount Road in Schwenksville. Come witness the difference!



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AIM ACADEMY

AIM Academy looks to challenge students who learn differently

AIM Academy

The 2020-2021 school year was difficult for all students, but for anyone who learns differently, the challenges were immense. For the students who thrive in hands-on learning environments, who prefer visual models and real-world immersion, for those who shine in social spaces, and the ones that learn by doing, the last year may have been grim, particularly for students who were learning online.

At AIM Academy in Conshohocken, a college-prep school for students with language-based learning differences such as dyslexia, dyscalculia and dysgraphia, our fully in-person 1st- through 12th-grade classes are designed around optimizing the differences and challenging students.

AIM's curriculum is research-based and grounded in the science of reading. This includes instruction in



COURTESY OF AIM ACADEMY

AIM Academy in Conshohocken is a college-prep school for students with language-based learning differences such as dyslexia, dyscalculia and dysgraphia.

Wilson Language Training and an arts-based program that emphasizes hands-on instruction and the development of background knowledge.

The academic programs at AIM Academy are individualized and innovative and designed to spark student curiosity and enthusiasm. Our Humanities,

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Design and Mathematics) and Arts curriculum develop deep understanding and critical thinking skills needed for college and career success. We blend hands-on, arts-based and 21st century learning in all of our classrooms. Underlying every aspect of our



COURTESY OF AIM ACADEMY

AIM's curriculum is research-based and grounded in the science of reading.

program is the knowledge and use of cutting-edge research into how our students learn best across all disciplines.

In AIM's Upper School, we know that teenagers who struggle with learning in traditional schools often need extra attention to ignite their passion for learning or creating. We do this by individualizing each and every one of our students' schedules, pushing them to the highest level of challenge they can handle, and supporting them in any areas of struggle that emerge along the way. We remediate and accelerate simultaneously, and we work with a great sense of urgency.

All of our students are prepared to head off to college, and the only way we are going to prepare their minds and mental habits for the road ahead is by lighting a fire, sparking a passion that will propel them through the difficult moments and maximize success in the easier ones. Our students have opportunities to become leaders, and all seniors experience a taste of college through our dual-enrollment partnerships enrolling in college courses while still in high school and learning to

All of our students have multiple opportunities to discover their pas-

sion for a subject or an activity whether it is an athletic pursuit, immersion in the arts, community service, diversity, equity and inclusion work or creating in our robotics and engineering spaces.

And AIM also teaches teachers! The AIM Institute for Learning and Research has created online literacy training courses based on the curriculum we know works for students at AIM Academy. Not only do new AIM teachers undergo training in the AIM Pathways platform, but AIM also works with schools and school districts around the country to help teachers incorporate the Science of Reading into their classrooms as well.

At AIM we say that innovative teaching leads to fearless learning. Consider joining us to learn more about AIM.

Join us for a virtual information session and then visit for a Tuesday tour.

Info sessions will be held from 9 to 10 a.m. on Sept. 24, Oct. 8, Nov. 6 and Dec. 10, and from 6 to 7 p.m. on Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Jan. 5, 2022.

Register at www.aimpa.org/learnmore.

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