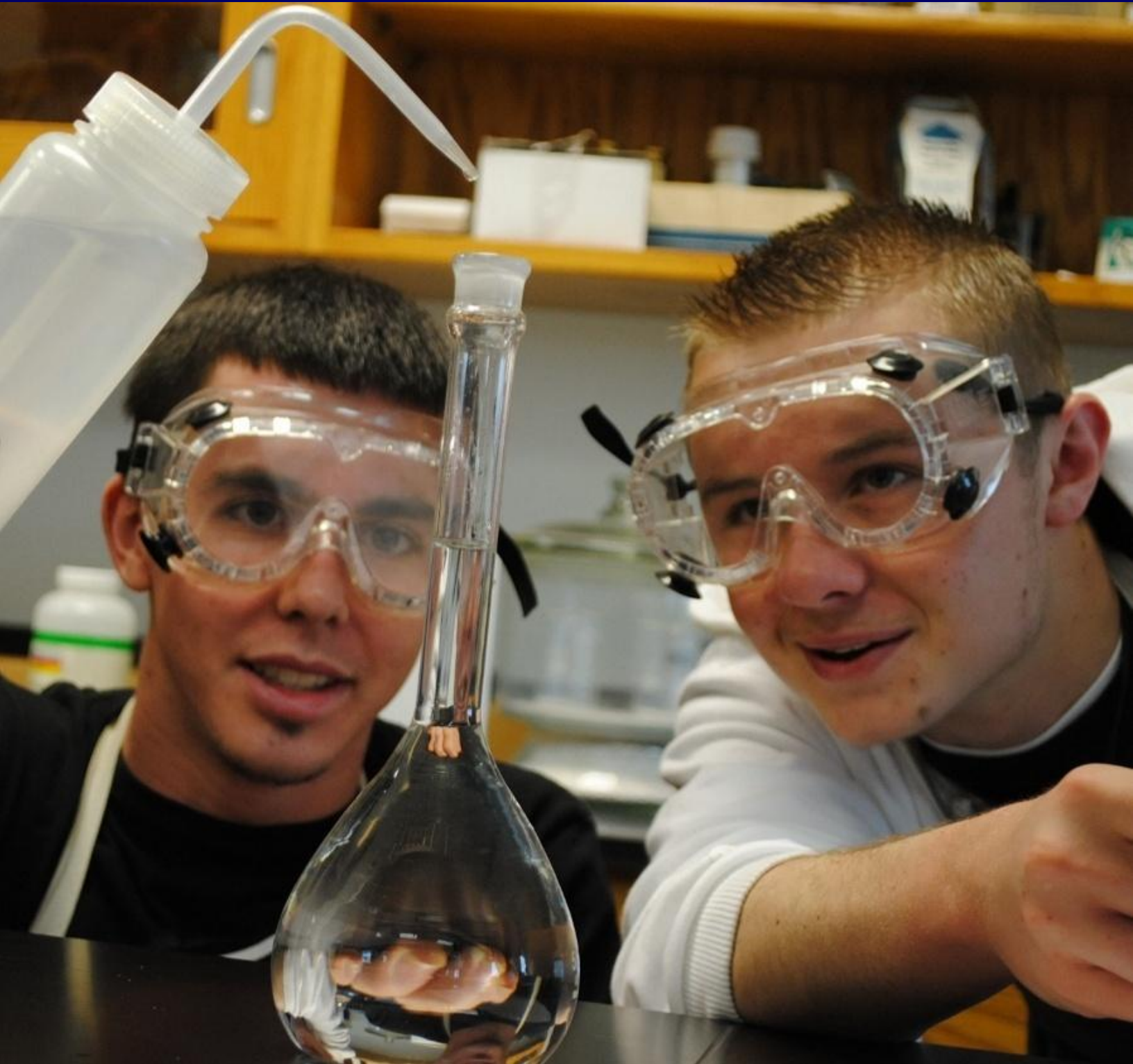


NORWIN SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT

2010-2011 School Year



Moving Forward from Great to EXTRAORDINARY



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Norwin School District Community:

On behalf of the Board of Education, it is, indeed, a pleasure to provide this Annual Report of the 2010-2011 school year. And what a year!

During that school year, Norwin students performed exceptionally well in academics, ranking second-highest out of 17 school districts in Westmoreland County, tenth-highest out of 105 school districts in southwestern Pennsylvania, and 32nd-highest out of 496 school districts in Pennsylvania based on the Pittsburgh Business Times 2011 Guide to Western Pennsylvania Schools.

The Norwin Center for Performing Arts provided opportunities for creativity, art education, technology, music and drama to build on the Norwin tradition of outstanding performances and competition. Equally so, the tradition and pride of Norwin athletics, recreation, health and fitness, and intramural sports continued with the same offerings and emphasis on building character and good sportsmanship through competition and active lifestyles.

Norwin currently has the lowest real estate millage out of 17 school districts in Westmoreland County, which demonstrates a cost-effective and efficient manner of operations and reflects the values and desired investments of the greater school community for high-performing schools.

From the continued success we see at Norwin School District, it should be evident that good schools are a great investment. Nothing but the best will do to meet the high expectations of quality set forth by the Norwin School District.

However, with cutbacks in state and federal funding, it will require a collective effort on the part of all key stakeholders to preserve the fidelity of Norwin's educational programs and services. With prudent financial management and fiscal responsibility through the reallocation of resources, the District will make every effort to make educational and financial investments based on best practices, proven methods, and strategies for long-term success.

Students who have strong academics, sophisticated technical skills,



Norwin School District students had a year of great achievement in 2010-2011. Here is a photo from early 2011 of Norwin High School student leaders who represent the areas of academics, athletics, and the performing arts.

and a personal commitment to excellence will have the best opportunity to be successful in the future and it is the responsibility of the School District to ensure that graduates, in this respect, are well-prepared as life-long learners.

Respectfully,

William H. Kerr
William H. Kerr, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Norwin School District Administration

Dr. William Kerr,
Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Mary Anne Hazer,
Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education

Dr. Tracy A. McNelly,
Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education

Ms. Margaret F. Zimmer,
Director of Pupil Services & Special Programs

Mr. John H. Wilson,
Board Secretary/Director of Business Affairs

Mr. Thomas H. Wroblewski,
Director of Human Resources

On the Cover

Norwin High School seniors Jesse Painter, left, and Jacob DeFlitch, study chemical properties in Mr. David Brozeski's Advanced Placement Chemistry Class in spring 2011.

About This Publication

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Produced by Mr. Jonathan D. Szish, Coordinator of School and Community Relations, Norwin School District

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Norwin School Board includes:

Seated (Pictured from left to right)

Mr. Del P. Nolfi, Jr.
Ms. Becky A. Gediminskas
Ms. Barbara A. Viola
Mr. Ronald R. Giuliana
Mr. Dennis J. Rittenhouse

Standing (Pictured from left to right)

Mr. Jerry O'Donnell
Mr. Donald W. Rhodes, Jr.
Mr. Robert J. Perkins, President
Mr. Thomas J. Sturm, Vice President



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Norwin School District students performed admirably on the state's math and reading exams for 2010-2011, helping all schools except one to make Adequate Yearly Progress and helping to break previous Norwin records for academic proficiency in several areas.

On the eighth-grade reading exam, 93 percent of students scored advanced or proficient, a remarkable achievement that students in that grade level have maintained for the past three years.

At seventh grade, the percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced continues to be high, with reading at 89 percent and math at 90 percent.

Among sixth-grade students, math mastery remains high, with 93 percent scoring proficient or advanced.

In fourth grade, reading and math scores continue to be high, with 88 percent scoring proficient or advanced in reading and 91 percent in math.

Among third-grade students, scores in reading (88 percent) and math (93 percent) continue to be high.

Norwin Administrators also reported progress for cohorts of students that they have tracked for several years.

Dr. Tracy McNelly, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, said these positive overall results validate the Pittsburgh Business Times' ranking of Norwin School District as the tenth-highest out of 105 school districts in western Pennsylvania and as the second-highest in Westmoreland County.

Here are the grade levels and subject areas in which record-setting percentages of Norwin students scored proficient or advanced:

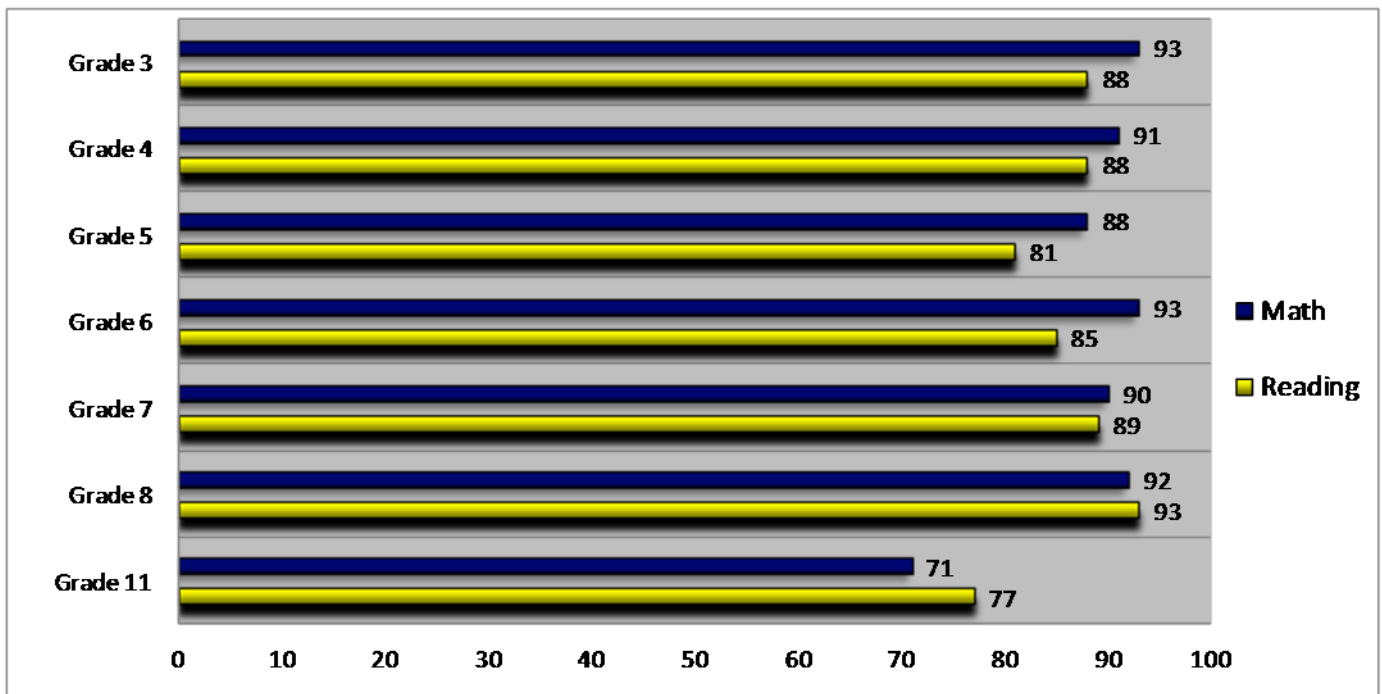
- Grade 11 — 95 percent in writing
- Grade 8 — 92 percent in math
- Grade 8 — 82 percent in science
- Grade 6 — 85 percent in reading
- Grade 5 — 88 percent in math and writing
- Grade 4 — 96 percent in science



Two Sheridan Terrace Elementary School kindergarten students "reach for the stars" in this letter recognition exercise in Ms. Angela Yezovich's classroom in early 2011.

To view all of Norwin School District's 2010-2011 results, as well as an overview of Norwin's rankings compared with other western Pennsylvania school districts, please visit the District Web site at www.norwinsd.org and click on "About Us," and "Administrative Reports and Presentations." You can also view these presentations by [clicking here](#).

2010-2011 Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) Norwin School District Results



Percentage of Students Who Scored Proficient or Advanced

State Exam Math Target: 67 percent of students scoring proficient or advanced
 State Exam Reading Target: 72 percent of students scoring proficient or advanced

BUDGET AND FINANCE

NORWIN HAS LOWEST TAX RATE IN WESTMORELAND COUNTY

Near the end of the 2010-2011 school year, the Norwin Board of Education and Administration worked diligently to meet the challenge of preparing a 2011-2012 Education Budget with the prospect of reduced state and federal funding. Their efforts resulted in adoption of a \$56.7 million budget, which — almost miraculously in the current economic climate — did not raise taxes or call for any furloughs.

In fact, Superintendent William Kerr, Director of Business Affairs John Wilson, and the Administrative Team were able to reduce expenses to the point where the 2011-2012 budget called for \$1.2 million, or 2.1 percent, less in expenses than last year's budget.

Thanks to these efforts, the District tax rate remained at 65.8 mills. This soon would become the lowest tax rate out of 17 school districts in Westmoreland County. Statewide, Norwin School District's local tax effort is in the bottom 35 percent of school districts.

"It is important to continually improve educational programs and services while maintaining fiscal responsibility," said Superintendent Dr. William Kerr.

Norwin School District's cost-effective operations are validated by statistics that were released by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association in spring 2011. Of the 100 largest Pennsylvania school districts, Norwin has 16.5 pupils per faculty, while the average among those 100 districts is 13.5 pupils per faculty. Also, for that group of districts, Norwin has 224.46 pupils per member of management, while the state average is 187.2.

Additionally, Norwin School District's total expenditures per student is the twelfth-lowest in the state out of 500 districts, and the lowest in Westmoreland County. Norwin's actual instructional expenditures per student is the 29th-lowest in the state, and the second-lowest in Westmoreland County.

| Rank 2011-2012 | Westmoreland County School District | Millage 2011-2012 |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Franklin Regional | 86.68 |
| 2 | Burrell | 83.50 |
| 3 | Kiski Area | 82.01 |
| 4 | Jeannette | 81.72 |
| 5 | Mt. Pleasant | 79.78 |
| 6 | Greensburg Salem | 78.24 |
| 7 | Belle Vernon | 77.69 |
| 8 | Derry | 74.50 |
| 9 | Greater Latrobe | 74.50 |
| 10 | Yough | 73.60 |
| 11 | Penn-Trafford | 73.25 |
| 12 | Ligonier | 73.00 |
| 13 | New Kensington-Arnold | 72.90 |
| 14 | Hempfield | 70.15 |
| 15 | Southmoreland | 69.40 |
| 16 | Monessen | 66.50 |
| 17 | Norwin | 65.80* |

* Does not include 1.2 mills designated for Norwin Public Library approved by public referendum and collected by Norwin School District

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2011



The Norwin High School Class of 2011 lets out a cheer upon graduating May 27, 2011.

Norwin School District graduated 424 students at a ceremony Friday, May 27, 2011 in the Norwin High School gymnasium.

Of the 424 members in the Class of 2011, 83 percent will be attending a four-year college, two-year community college, business, trade, or technical school; 4 percent will be enlisting in the armed services; 5 percent will directly enter the world of work; and 8 percent are undecided, but they are determined to follow a productive and contributing pathway for future success.

More than 90 Norwin High School graduating seniors earned some type of scholarship for their academic or athletic excellence.

Here are details about the Class of 2011:

- Number of Graduates:** 424
- Valedictorian:** Mr. Dylan Quintana
- Salutatorian:** Mr. Gregory Mannerberg
- John Rodgers Scholarship:** Ms. Samantha DeFlicht
- Most Outstanding Seniors:** Ms. Jenna Gigliotti and Mr. Lee Scandinaro

"This graduating class marks a tradition of excellence where generations of students have been enriched by dedicated teachers who have made a positive difference in the lives of our young people," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. William Kerr.

THE 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR IN REVIEW

ACADEMIC, ATHLETIC, AND PERFORMING ARTS MILESTONES

September 2010

Bands of America Regional Championship at Knights Stadium
 District Begins Energy Management Cost-Avoidance Initiative
 Center for 21st Century Learners Online Academy Planned
 50th Anniversary of Norwin Band Festival
 Second-Annual Athletics Hall of Fame During Homecoming

October 2010

District Awarded Robotics Program Grant
 High School Student Rachel Geizura Leads "Pink Out" for Breast Cancer Research



November 2010

Four Student Leaders and Jennifer Miele Speak at District's First Business-Education-Community Program
 Army Selects High School Student Carl Kurinko for All-American Band
 KDKA Extra Effort Award Given to Student-Athlete Tim Petro
 Veterans Day Celebrated
 Seven Knights Athletics Teams Make Post-Season
 A Night with the Young Knights Program Helps Preschoolers Transition into Kindergarten

December 2010

Norwin Council of PTA's Reflections Award Ceremony
 Science Alumni Day Brings 29 Graduates Back to Speak
 U.S. Flag Flown Over Iraq to Honor Show Choir
 Sheridan Terrace Fun Fair Raises \$1,800 for Irwin Food Bank
 Middle School Student Lance Frye Leads Heart Association Fund-Raiser
 Students Excel at County Quiz Bowl
 A Day in Ancient Greece Held at Middle School
 Steely McBeam Visits Sunset Valley



January 2011

School Director Recognition Month
 Students Rally to Help Rotary Backpack Project
 High School Scheduling "Faire" Offers Expanded Format
 Intra-School Leadership Conference at High School
 Young Washington Civic Light Opera Performance Arrives at Hillcrest
 National Groundhog Job Shadow Day Takes High School Students to Workplaces
 Norwin Select Choir Performs at *Let Freedom Sing!* Celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.



February 2011

State Auditor General Jack Wagner Applauds Norwin Academic and Financial Performance
 Superintendent Presents Mid-Point Review
 Norwin's Got Talent
 Boys' & Girls' Basketball Teams Make WPIAL playoffs

March 2011

Norwin Council of PTA's Founders Day
 Norwin Council of PTA's K-8 Science Fair
 Students Raise Money for Tornado Damage and Japan Relief
 March Arts Day at Hillcrest and High School



Partners in Progress / Norwin Chamber & Norwin High School Career Awareness Day

High School Wins Second Place in PA Science Bowl
 Cooking to Learn Program at Sunset Valley Elementary Helps Students in Life Skills Classes

Middle School Student Madeline Wensel Named YMCA Sports Girl of the Year

Read Across America Day Excites K-4 Students

Students Compete in New Robotics Camps

High School Musical: *Copacabana*

Wrestlers Matt Tadich and John Pezze Compete at PIAA State Championships



April 2011

High School Students Build Signs for Great Allegheny Passage

Norwin Middle School Hosts PMEA District Jr High Band Concert

Safe Schools Committee Begins Work

Aviary Program at Stewartsville

SADD Club Sponsors *Grim Reaper Day* at Norwin High School

Fifty Students Display Artwork in High School Public Art Show

Board of Education Takes Action Against Voucher Plan

High School Auditorium Renamed *Norwin Center for the Performing Arts*

High School Singers Michael Tusay and Connor Feals, and Percussion Ensemble, Perform at All-Eastern Musical Conference



May 2011

Norwin Council of PTA's 2011-2012 Induction of Officers / Student Scholarship Awards

Graduation!

Stewartsville Teachers Rally for Cystic Fibrosis Research

High School SADD Club Organizes Mock Accident

Engineering for Young Women Workshops at High School

High School Senior Nick Cirucci Honored in Harrisburg with "Students for Good Character Award"

Hahntown Student Craig Drost Wins Fourth-Grade Spelling Bee

Norwin School District Community Foundation Awards Inaugural Educator Innovation Grants

Girls' Track Places First in Section; Student Kasey Kemp Wins State Pole Vault Championship with 12-foot Vault

Boys' Volleyball and Baseball Teams Make WPIAL playoffs

Holocaust Remembrance at Middle School

Middle School Receives *Fuel Up to Play 60* Grant, Which Provides Climbing Wall and Other Activities

Norwin Color Guard Ranked as One of Best in The World

Norwin Chamber of Commerce Excellence in Education Awards

High School Scholarship Awards Ceremony

Norwin Rotary and Norwin School District Community Foundation Scholarship Awards



June 2011

District Adopts Final Budget: No Furloughs, No Tax Increase

