



Greetings,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year!

Our CUSD Team is excited to celebrate with you the opening of schools at our bell-ringing ceremonies district-wide on Tuesday, September 3, 2024, for new and returning students.

As we welcome our CUSD families to the new school year, we want you to know that our team remains committed to providing educational opportunities for our students to pave the way for a brighter future. In support of this effort, district and school leaders have been intentional about how to make this happen in our schools, as we know change takes time but also requires planning. Therefore, our team began most of this work with the University of Virginia Partnership for Leaders in Education (UVA-PLE) over the summer. Collaborating with districts across the country helped us to become even more laser-focused on why we are committed to this journey and we wanted to share our purpose with you.

Purpose Statement...Our Why

The community lacks equitable access to education, healthcare, and economic and workforce development. Therefore, the Chester Upland School District will enhance executive leadership capabilities in our central office and at each school geared towards

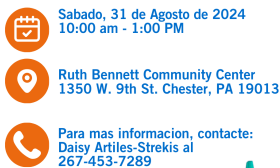
fostering greater collaboration and efficiency in implementing strategies and frameworks. Sustainability and equity will be achieved by setting collaborative and collective standards for communication, accountability, operations, and student success monitoring. In this way, we will guarantee every student's success, ensuring they graduate from high school prepared for further education or careers and equipped to make meaningful contributions to our global society.

This means we want our district to serve as an educational institution of resources that meets the needs of our staff, and students, and provides support to our families so that we can contribute to a community that will thrive. This school year our team will focus on culture and climate, instructional best practices, retaining and recruiting talent, operations, communication, and the continued accountability to fiscal responsibility.

It is our hope that our stakeholders will join our CUSD team on this journey. Collectively, we can create conditions for our students and staff that will provide access to a brighter future.

To learn more about our journey please see highlights in the Superintendent Update and look for the mini videos starting this week on our website that outline the four priorities and 90-day implementation plans for our district and schools.

Additionally, below I have outlined some important updates that will help all scholars and CUSD families prepare for the first day of school.



Enrollment/Registration:

Our Department of Equitable Learning and Support in collaboration with The Foundation for Delaware County Bilingual Services are holding a bilingual registration event on Saturday, August 31.

The event is open to all families who need to register a scholar for school for the upcoming year. There will also be translators available to support with registration.

Registration Event Details:

Saturday, August 31 at 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Ruth Bennett Community Center
1350 W 10th Street, Chester, PA 19013

Questions?

Spanish-speaking families can contact, Ms. Daisy Artiles-Strekis at 267-453-7289
All other families can contact, Ms. Marva Payne at 267-541-3218

School Uniforms:

By now, you should have received communication directly from your scholar's school regarding the uniform guidelines for this year. If you have not received this information, please click on the respective links below to access each school's welcome back-to-school letter, which includes the uniform guidelines. If you have any questions or concerns about the uniform policy, we encourage you to reach out directly to your child's school as soon as possible.

[Chester High School](#)

[STEM Academy](#)

[Digital Academy](#)

[Toby Farms](#)

[Edmont Scholars Academy \(Elementary School Students\)](#)

[Edmont Scholars Academy \(Middle School Students\)](#)

[Main Street](#)

[Stetser](#)

[CUSA](#)

Schedules:



Scheduling for our Elementary and Intermediate Schools has been completed. Our High School Guidance Counselors are currently in the final stages of reviewing transcripts to ensure that all graduation requirements are being met for our senior students. We understand how important it is for families to have access to this information, and once all schedules are finalized, we will promptly announce their availability. You will be able to view your child's schedule through PowerSchool, and we will also post this update on our website and other communication platforms to keep you informed.

Transportation:

Bus route information will start being distributed within the next few days and all information for both school buses, special education services, and curb-to-curb transportation is being completed in our central office.

Once school begins, our transportation vendor, Chester Elite will notify school administrators of any delays in service greater than 15 minutes for school bus service. Delays for van services, curb-to-curb and special needs services, will be communicated by the assigned vendors for that specific student.

If you have questions or concerns about transportation, please send an email to the address below:

Info@chesterelitetrans.com

Food Services:



If you have questions about Food Services, please contact William Lambert, Director of Dining Services for Chester-Upland School District at William.Lambert2@compass-usa.com.

Department of Equitable Learning and Support:

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act ensures that all school-aged children and youth experiencing homelessness have the right to the same free and appropriate public education as their peers.

Our district is committed to providing identified homeless students with the necessary resources. If a student is experiencing homelessness, please contact the school social worker or counselor to complete a McKinney-Vento Referral form, which will then be reviewed by CUSD's Department of Equitable Learning and Support. The department

will work with the school to ensure the student receives the education and resources they need, including food, housing, transportation, and supplies.

If you have questions or concerns related to housing stability for any CUSD student or need more clarity about the process, please reach out to the student's school social worker or counselor, or the Director of Equitable Learning and Support at dbowser@chesteruplandsd.org.

Counseling Resources:



CUSD offers a range of counseling resources to support families during the back-to-school season. School counselors are available in each building to assist students with academic concerns, emotional challenges, and social development.

In an interest to better support our students, each school building has a dedicated school counselor to provide classroom guidance lessons, small group counseling support, and collaborate with families and staff to provide support to students throughout the school day.

Our school counselors' mission is to advocate for students. Through collaboration, advocacy, and leadership, they are responsible for championing the implementation of a multi-tiered system of support to assist students in gaining access to resources and skills needed to become universally competitive and lifelong learners. Families can reach out to the main office at their child's school for the guidance counselor's contact information.

Curriculum:

This year, we are focused on creating enriching learning experiences that foster growth, creativity, and critical thinking. Whether your child is just starting kindergarten or entering their final year, our team is committed to supporting their academic journey and ensuring they have the tools they need to succeed.

Here are a few key curriculum resources for the 2024/2025 school year:

- **Grade-Level Textbooks & Materials:** Your child will receive textbooks and workbooks designed to align with the latest educational standards.
- **Technology Integration:** Our classrooms will be utilizing the latest technology to enhance learning and engagement. Platforms like First in Math will be used to help students practice their math skills.
- **Support for Every Learner:** We will continue to prioritize the needs of all students, offering a range of programs and services designed to meet diverse learning styles and needs. In addition to the core curriculum, students will have access to IXL, and Phonics for Reading to provide extra support and challenges for students.

Stay Connected:

Keeping our families informed and engaged is a top priority. We have multiple platforms where you can stay up to date with the latest news and events. Be sure to follow our social media pages for real-time updates, tune into Clipper TV for district highlights, and check our website chesteruplandsd.org regularly for important announcements.

We also encourage you to save our [district calendar](#) so you never miss an upcoming event.

- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)

Please note: We are currently making essential updates to our website to improve accessibility and to ensure that families are better able to connect to departments and services. We thank you for your patience and understanding during this process as we work to enhance your online experience.

If you want to follow CUSD sports, visit the athletics department's website chesterclippers.com/.

Bell Ringing Ceremonies:

To celebrate the **first day of school on Tuesday, September 3**, and to build excitement for the year ahead, we're hosting special bell-ringing ceremonies across the

district. These events are a wonderful opportunity for families to join district officials, staff, and community members in cheering on our scholars as they embark on a new academic journey.

We invite you to be part of our tradition as we come together to ring in the new school year with enthusiasm.

Bell Ringing Ceremony Schedule:

7:15 a.m. - **Chester High School**

7:15 a.m. - **STEM Academy**

8:00 a.m. - **Toby Farms**

8:30 a.m. - **ESA, Main Street, CUSA & Stetser**

With C-Pride, we are looking forward to seeing you soon. Have an amazing school year!

Latrice N. Mumin, Ed. D., MBA
Superintendent of Schools, Chester Upland School District

