

# high school news

by Mary Elchert

Pen Argyl has always been a top-notch school. It's both academically and athletically at the top of its game and every year the school gets better. Mr. Smith believes that Pen Argyl is going to be very successful this year. He also thinks that the new additions we have to our school will be very beneficial.

Over the summer, Pen Argyl has had some new improvements. New rugs, called tile rugs, were put in almost every classroom of the C-wing. The new rugs are stronger, more durable, and make the C-wing better. Also over the summer, most of the school was painted.

New things that have taken place aren't all physical improvements. You may have heard of the dual enrollment that is sweeping the high school. If you don't know about it, dual enrollment is where students in the high school can take courses at Northampton Community College along with the courses they normally take. This is the first year that dual enrollment has been offered at Pen Argyl. It is open for juniors and seniors and they must have scored a proficient on the PSSAs and if they have taken the SATs, they must have scored a 500 in both the verbal and math parts of the test. Students can take anything from English and Math to electives,

New this year, are walk-in observations. During the year, administrators will be walking throughout the classrooms, observing the teachers and the students and what they are doing.

This will be very positive reinforcement of our curriculum and will help with the co-teaching program. This year, some math classes will be taught by both regular and special education teachers. While there will be both special education and other students in the desks, this will help the special education students learn and overall improve their standardized test results.

Mr. Smith is taking a trip with a couple of teachers to Penn State University to the Data Learning Communities: Teacher Teaming to Improve Student Math and Reading Skills Conference. It is held at Penn State and it's the third time Pen Argyl is going to the conference. Mr. Smith believes that this conference is an honor and it will definitely help the high school improve academically.

Besides the conference, Mr. Smith also has a lot of goals:

- To vigorously promote Etiquette which fosters respectful and correct appearance and behavior in a polite society. Examples would be proper addressing of students, adults, visitors, and authority; no headwear in the building; proper listening and speaking skills; respect for oneself, others, property, environment, and food.
- To promote academic achievement whereby every student can learn.
- To inculcate on a regular basis techniques associated directly with the reading Apprenticeship training within our pedagogy.
- Special Education: The inclusion/co-

teaching of these students into regular mathematical classes will increase levels of achievement on standardized tests.

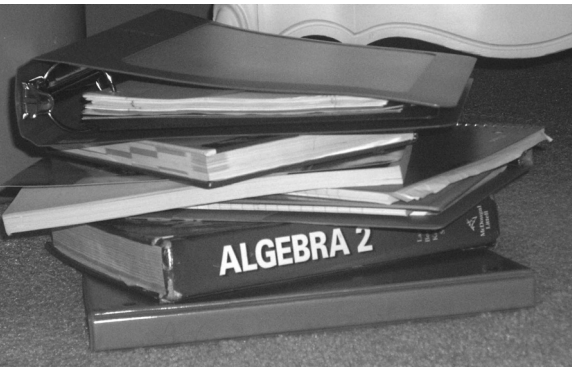
- To continue to expand and refine the math tutoring program and work collaboratively with the Assistant Principal on weekly progress.
- The implementation of inter-disciplinary teaching strategies in support of Pa. standards and anchors in math and reading as an integral function of the Data Learning Committees.
- To promote the concepts of 21st century teaching and learning with students across the curriculum.
- To promote student creativity across the curriculum as higher learning/ thinking skill relative to Bloom's Taxonomy.
- To emphasize student attendance and student conduct as a very important variable directly related to academic achievement.
- Qualitative writing skills continue to be promoted across the curriculum.

Mr. Smith advises the seniors to not be lazy. "Senior year is not a year off. Take advantage of every opportunity and enjoy every activity and program because it is a fleeting moment in time," Mr. Smith stated. He also has good advice for the rest of the student body. "Education is power and don't try your best, do your best." Mr. Smith wishes everyone a safe and happy school year, full of tradition and value.

## how to survive freshman year

by Emily Walsh

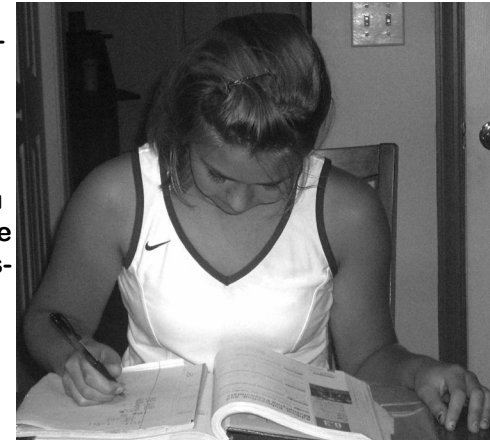
Are you missing the middle school? Being a freshman makes most students want to go back to the middle school. Maybe it is because you can't find your classes, or because your backpack ends up being bigger than you are.



E. Walsh, Echo

Also, the fact that you're the youngest and newest student can make you feel small. It can be pretty stressful in the beginning but to make it easier you just have to stay organized. When Brielle Mushock, freshman, was asked what the most difficult part of being a freshman is, she replied, "Staying organized and doing homework." Participating in sports and after school activities can leave very little time for homework which can be extremely hard, especially if all of your papers are just shoved in your backpack. As long as you know what you have to do and your papers and books are in some sort of order, you'll be able to finish your work on time. If you want to do well in school then take Gerard Walsh's, senior, advice for freshman and "don't be afraid to ask questions." It is also important for you to understand what you are doing in all of your

classes. If you don't, try to make time to meet with your teacher whether it is before or after school. As long as you stay organized, focused, and communicate with your teachers, you will have a stress-free freshman year.



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## gifted cookbook

by Brenna Schmidt

The Wind Gap Middle School gifted class is studying family origins and using traditional family recipes to enrich their understanding of family traditions. The students are asking friends in the community as well as their relatives for recipes. If anyone would like to submit a recipe they can email Mrs. Powrie at [powrie.suzanne@penargylsd.org](mailto:powrie.suzanne@penargylsd.org) or put your recipe

in her mailbox at any of the Pen Argyl Area School District buildings. The cookbook will hopefully contain between 150-250 recipes, as well as some facts about the Slatebelt and our community. This cookbook will be used as a fundraiser for Pen Argyl Area School District Gifted Program. The cookbook will be sold pre-sale for \$11 and regular for \$12. If interested in the presale contact Mrs. Powrie.