



SUSSEX ACADEMY

Explore · Experience · Excel

Sussex Academy Administrators

Dr. Patricia Oliphant
Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Allen Stafford
Director of Finance and Operations
Gina L. Derrickson
Community/Communications Manager
Steve Oscar
Athletic Director

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How You Can Help

No state or federal funds are available to assist with the construction of new charter schools. Your tax-deductible private donation is essential in helping to achieve our objectives of greater school choice and a better path to outstanding higher education.

Thank you for your interest and support of the young people of Sussex County.

Thank You!

Sussex Academy Foundation

Joseph M. Schell, *Chair*
Michael Rawl, *Vice-Chair*
William Allan
Chase Brockstedt
Mariah Calagione
Lyndie Hertrich
Jennifer McKean
Preston Schell
John Schroeder
William Scott

Phase 2 Campaign Leaders

Joseph M. Schell, *Chair*
Dr. Krista Griffin
Todd Hickman
Steve Montgomery
Michael Rawl
Chris Schell
Preston Schell

Title 14, DE Code, Section 8.2.2 Sussex Academy is a public school. Contributions and gifts are not required for admission to the school and will in no way affect or improve a student's opportunity for admission.

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Phase 2 Designs Complete, Construction Underway

During the winter, school officials worked with various firms with expertise in outdoor athletic fields, performance stages, classrooms and libraries, to translate their visions for expansion into final renderings and construction documents.

Now, construction is underway to enable Sussex Academy to serve more than 600 students in grades 6-11 during the 2015-16 school year.

The many requirements – more parking spaces, added sports fields, a large cafeteria and auditorium and a library – are all part of an \$11.2 million “Phase 2 Capital Campaign” of which 73% has now been raised.

“Starting from scratch allows us to employ state-of-the-art technology and components in every new addition. We’ve learned a lot about what it takes to create a first-rate facility,” said Joseph M. Schell, chair of the Sussex Academy Foundation, which is funding and overseeing the project.

“From construction of grass and turf fields to lighting and acoustics for the new school performance hall, we are delighted to bring this top quality facility to the young people of Sussex County.”



THE PERFORMANCE HALL

When the new performance stage and auditorium are completed by this fall, it will become one of the largest indoor venues in southern Delaware.

Large enough to host a professional orchestra, the performance hall will feature state-of-the-art sound, acoustic, lighting and projection capabilities.

OUTDOOR ATHLETIC FIELDS

Offering a full range of boys’ and girls’ sports at the middle, JV and varsity levels requires a significant number of playing fields – and Sussex Academy will provide them, thanks to the acquisition of adjoining land by a Foundation board member in 2014.

Being built now, with close attention to drainage, maintenance and safety, are two natural grass surfaces and two lighted turf fields with spectator seating. A softball field is also under construction.



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THE AQUATIC CENTER

By the winter of 2015-16, the new Aquatic Center will provide a high-tech facility for practices and meets for Sussex Academy and other schools in Sussex County.

The Center will feature eight swim lanes with a UV Ozone filter, and HVAC systems to manage humidity and reduce chlorine odor and toxicity. Lanes are equipped with automated touch pads for scoring and a light system to detect early starts.

The pool has extra-wide decks, raised seating for up to 400 spectators, pool-side showers and direct entrances to the boys' and girls' locker rooms.



The Aquatic Center is being fully funded and built by Schell Brothers as a gift to Sussex Academy and the public schools of Sussex County.



THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Designed to encourage conversation and socialization, the Seahawk Café will allow students to enjoy down time in a comfortable restaurant-style cafeteria. After-hours the cafeteria can be easily converted to auditorium seating for school assemblies and performances.

OUR NEW INFORMATION COMMONS

Modern school libraries do more than shelf books. Sussex Academy's will exemplify how the merging of information and new technologies, like 3-dimensional printing, access to a wide array of databases, digital screens and green-screen productions, can support students' learning, projects and career dreams.

Aligned with the school's mission of college preparation, the Information Commons will help students explore various careers and professions, seek internships, research and apply to top-tier universities and pursue scholarships. The Library/Learning Center will open in October, 2015.



Upcoming Events

Dragon Boat Festival
Lewes, Delaware

September 13, 2015



www.lewesdragonboat.com



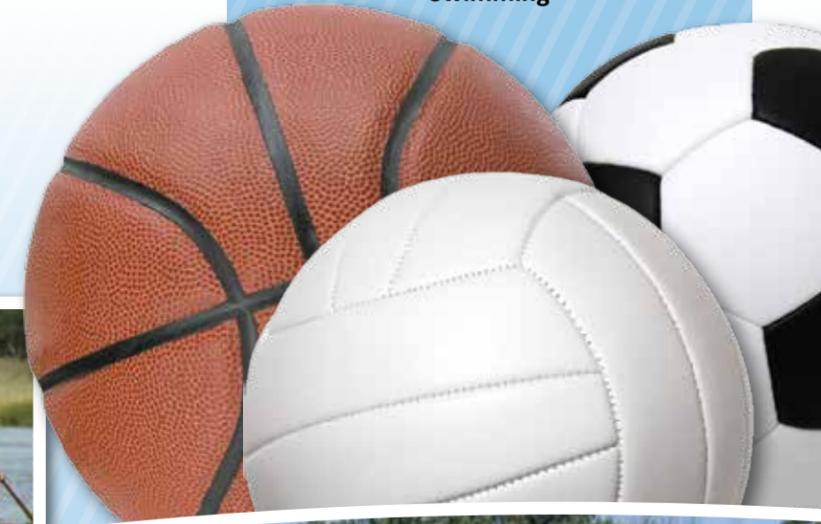
2015-16 Sports At Sussex Academy

FALL, 2015

- Soccer
- Cross country
- Field hockey
- Volleyball

WINTER, 2015-16

- Basketball
- Swimming





15 Years Of Educational Excellence

The creation and success of Sussex Academy as our region’s only charter school, soon to be serving grades 6-12, would not have been possible without the prior achievements of its predecessor school, “Sussex Academy of Arts and Sciences.”

We are grateful to these individuals for their leadership in the formation of Sussex Academy of Arts & Sciences.

For 12 years, before our new combined school became a reality in 2012, SAAS students were regularly winning major awards and testing among the top in our state.

SAAS opened its doors in 2000 with 225 students, growing to an enrollment of 325 by 2003. The majority of its 8th grade graduates – some 1,200 prior to 2012 – then attended public Sussex County high schools, and formed the core of our high school graduates who later attended four-year universities.

Today, many SAAS students are starting to return to Sussex County as business, professional and community leaders of the future. This will continue to be our objective for the students who graduate from Sussex Academy.

SAAS Founders:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Linda Choy | Bill Pfaff |
| Maribeth Dockety | Norman Poole |
| Nancy Gideon | Susan Selph |
| Leslie Lesko | Nathalie Willard |
| Gonzalo Martinez | Gary Wray |

SUSSEX ACADEMY Graduate Profiles



Colin Ennis

Colin Ennis, '03, graduated from Syracuse University and was accepted into the General Electric Information Technology Leadership program. Now an IT Program Manager with GE, Colin says, “The biggest impact Sussex Academy had on me was its sense of community – the bond created among SA alumni is unbreakable.”



Emily Wheatley

“My invaluable experience with writing and experiential learning at Sussex Academy contributed to my success at the UD and The George Washington University Law School.” Emily says that exploring world-wide issues led her to pursue a career in international business law.

Financials For Our Phase 2 Campaign

Estimated Expenditures

1. Aquatic Center	\$ 1,495,000
2. Performing Arts Stage	\$ 1,000,000
3. Auditorium & Cafeteria	\$ 2,100,000
4. Library/Information Commons	\$ 520,000
5. Playing Fields	
• Three natural grass fields	\$ 865,000
• Two turf fields	\$ 2,590,000
6. Additional parking	\$ 630,000
7. Hallways, reception area	\$ 320,000
8. Final DCHS payment	\$ 1,700,000
TOTAL	\$11,220,000

Timetable for fundraising: October, 2014 – December, 2015

Timetable for construction: May, 2015 – March, 2016

Sources of Funding

	<i>Funds Needed</i>	<i>Pledged/Raised to-date (6/15/15)</i>
Cash in-hand	\$ 1,400,000	\$ 1,400,000
Phase 2 Invoices Paid	--	\$ 590,000
USDA/NCALL Loans	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 2,500,000
Events	\$ 250,000	\$ 95,194
Parents	\$ 150,000	\$ 57,872
Foundations	\$ 2,250,000	\$ 9,500
Private donors	\$ 2,670,000	\$ 2,198,127
Businesses	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 1,356,000
TOTAL	\$11,220,000	\$ 8,206,693 (73%)

\$8.2 Million RAISED

\$3 Million TO GO



“Discover Your Potential” Helps Students Catch Up

Sometimes students need a little help.

Maybe it's the specific assignment, a difficult subject, or the need for organized study habits. Whatever the challenge, the DISCOVER YOUR POTENTIAL program, is available to help.

Sponsored for Sussex Academy by DISCOVER Bank, at no cost to students, the 2-hour, four-day after-school tutoring program is tailored to specific student requirements by experienced teaching professionals.

This year more than 80 students participated, with 91% of regular attendees making an improvement in school performance.

“We know our curricula is challenging,” said Patricia Oliphant, school director. “It takes time and encouragement for some students to get into the habits and mind-set that is necessary to perform well academically. We really appreciate the support DISCOVER Bank is giving our students.”

International Baccalaureate Program Set To Debut

What will it mean for students & families?

“The rigor of the IB Diploma requirements meets our recommendation for the strongest high school preparation possible. IB diploma (graduates) receive strong consideration from (our) admission committee.”

-College of William & Mary

Admissions directors at top universities find it harder than ever to differentiate among talented applicants.

But one achievement that sets students apart is the awarding of an International Baccalaureate high school diploma. As the director of admissions at Harvard says, “The IB is a first-rate program . . . and prepares students well for a university like ours.”

After three years of preparation, Sussex Academy has now been awarded certification by the IB program to provide coursework toward an IB diploma, starting with 11th grade students in the 2015-16 school year.

To achieve accreditation, eight Sussex Academy teachers and administrators underwent extensive IB training. The program must be re-certified every five years.

By 2017, every 11th and 12th grade student will be eligible to pursue IB Diploma coursework, at no cost to them. International Baccalaureate is critical to our mission: to ensure that every Sussex Academy student can enroll and succeed at top tier colleges and universities.

Message From The Chair

“A Delaware Challenge”

Across the U.S., only 785 charter schools exist in rural areas – about 10% of the total number of charters. In Sussex County, Delaware there is just one charter – Sussex Academy – compared to 25 in New Castle County.

On average, just 27% of rural high school graduates go to college compared to a national average of 51%. In Sussex County, only 23.5% of each year's graduates will attend a four-year university.

The reasons for so few rural charters include a lack of available facilities to renovate, and fewer funds to help pay for charter expansion or new construction. Many rural states also fail to support the operations of charters which, fortunately, is not the case in Delaware.

We recently undertook research to determine which national foundations actively support rural charter efforts. The sad answer is “about none.” Lack of leadership, smaller numbers of students and geographic distance are among their reasons, in addition to a subtle misplaced belief that rural students lack potential.

In fact, we find just the opposite to be true. Young people in Sussex County are bright, family-oriented and imbued with strong values. All they lack is the opportunity that a good college education can provide them. Given that, many will return here to make Southern Delaware become even stronger.

Thank you for helping us maximize the potential of young people in lower Delaware. Although we must rely on ourselves and the “Delaware Way” to complete Phase 2 of Sussex Academy, I have no doubt the fine business, foundation and community leaders of Delaware will step up to help make this happen.



Joseph M. Schell, *Chair*
Sussex Academy Foundation

