NORTHWESTERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

ENGAGE, INSPIRE, & LEAD...
WE ARE FUTURE READY!
OUR MISSION

We empower, inspire, and lead our students to strive for excellence in and out of the classroom...we are future ready!

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY
Students, staff, parents, and community share in the responsibility of a worthwhile education, which occurs both within and outside the school environment.

LIFE LONG LEARNING
All students are life long learners in a positive, safe, and respectful learning environment.

EMBRACING DIFFERENCES
Through effective communication, all students can accept and embrace diverse cultures, various abilities and interests, while positively contributing to the global community.

OUR SHARED VALUES

DEVELOPMENT OF ALL CHILDREN
Our school will provide for academic, intellectual, technological, physical, social, ethical, and emotional development of all children.

INDIVIDUAL POTENTIAL
All students need to be able to problem solve, use higher level thinking skills, be able to collaborate with others, and have high expectations in order to fulfill their highest individual potential.

TRUST, POSITIVITY & FOCUS
All stakeholders make strong contributions to the district’s operational efficiency through trusting relationships between community, board, staff and students using a positive attitude, focused efforts, and creative solutions.
Our District

The Northwestern Lehigh School District comprises approximately 110 square miles in the Northwest corner of Lehigh County consisting of Lynn, Lowhill, Heidelberg, and Weisenberg Townships. The District is primarily rural, including many agricultural areas, and is within driving distance of several major cultural centers, such as New York City, Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and Washington D.C. The District is slowly becoming more diverse, both culturally and economically. The District has many geographical and historical attributes, such as the Appalachian Trail and the Leaser Homestead, which is noted for the preservation of the Liberty Bell during the Revolutionary War. The District includes one high school, one middle school, two elementary schools, and a digital academy program with a total enrollment of approximately 2200 students.

The District offers course options for a wide variety of academic needs and interests including Career and Technical education courses, Honors and Advanced Placement courses, and Dual Enrollment opportunities where students can earn college credits during their high school career. Our program of studies provides a healthy balance of academic, athletic, and extracurricular activities. We are proud that our district campus is the central hub of the Northwestern Lehigh community. Strong community support is defined by active volunteerism, business partnerships, parent/teacher organizations, alumni and educational foundations, and athletic and activity organizations. The school district facilities are frequently utilized by the community to host and sponsor events. Our district lacks a strong industrial presence; however, the small businesses within the district are primarily owned by Northwestern Lehigh School District residents. The district’s community and business leaders support the educational and extracurricular programs of the school district by providing financial, moral, and physical supports to our students. It is evident that the community revolves around the activities and accomplishments of the school district which signifies that the Northwestern Lehigh Schools are the heartbeat of this local community.

Our Vision

The Northwestern Lehigh School District will strive to create an environment where all students will have the opportunity to participate in highly engaging, authentic learning experiences that meet the needs of all of our students.

Our students will learn the critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and problem solving skills necessary to adapt and navigate in a global society driven by twenty-first century technologies. Students will be encouraged to take calculated risks to reach their full potential. Our students will be challenged to become well-rounded students, with personal and educational goals, who have multiple opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities that enhance their social, mental and physical beings.

Faculty and staff will engage in relevant, meaningful professional development to be current in best instructional practices and technologies. We will examine essential learning questions facing our students to give students the tools to become reflective learners.

How do I register to attend school at Northwestern Lehigh?

Together faculty, staff, students, parents and community will utilize our collective talents to provide opportunities for students to demonstrate a sense of pride, mutual respect, and a strong work ethic that yield productive members of society.
Our Townships

Heidelberg Township

Heidelberg Township is a township of the second class that was incorporated in March 1752. The population is approximately 3,416 (2010 census) with an area of 17,000 acres or 26.3 square miles and 47.87 miles of Township roads and 35.67 miles of State roads. Located in the northwestern portion of Lehigh County with the Blue Mountain and Appalachian Trail on the northern border, Heidelberg Township has beautiful views and many opportunities for outdoor recreation. Heidelberg Township is proud of our agricultural roots and our zoning was created to preserve the agricultural land and natural resources that we love.

To learn more, please visit www.heidelberglehigh.org or contact us at 610-767-9297

Lynn Township

Lynn Township is the largest township in Lehigh County and has 41.3 square miles of mountains, rolling hills and beautiful countryside. There are many beautiful and historical sites in Lynn Township. We have beautiful Ontelaune Park where the Lynn-Heidelberg Historical Society created a replica of Fort Everett and the George Zeisloft Log House. Ontelaune Park also has available pavilions, disc golf course, dog park, and playground equipment for children of all ages. Lynn Township along with Heidelberg, Lowhill, and Weisenberg Township have formed an Ontelaune Park Veterans Memorial Committee. This committee is gathering names and information to have a beautiful memorial built in honor of our veterans at Ontelaune Park. Leaser Lake is a 117 acre impoundment owned by the Commonwealth of PA and managed by the Fish and Boat Commission for public fishing and boating. We are fortunate to have PA State Game Lands and access to the Appalachian Trail in Lynn Township.

To learn more, please visit www.lynnntwp.org or contact us at 610-298-2645

Lowhill Township

The smallest of the four Northwestern Townships is Lowhill Township with approximately 2,400 residents spread across 14 square miles. Approximately 20% of the Township is made up of PA State Game Lands. The vast majority of houses in Lowhill sit on lots of 1 acre or greater. A light commercial district is located near the south and along portions of Route 100 which travels the entire length of the Township. Steep topography is common in the Township and the Jordan Creek along with multiple tributaries fill in the low lands.

To learn more, please visit www.lowhilltwp.org or contact us at 610-285-6660

Weisenberg Township

With nearly 5,400 residents, Weisenberg Township is the most populated of the 4 Northwestern Townships. Like the rest of the district, Weisenberg is mostly rural except for the southern portion around Interstate 78 which is home to multiple commercial businesses. The vast majority of houses in Weisenberg sit on lots of 1 acre or greater. Rich in Pennsylvania Dutch history, farming encompasses much of Township and more than 25% of its total 26+ square miles have been preserved.

To learn more, please visit www.weisenbergtownship.org or contact us at 610-285-6660
OUR STUDENTS

2,200 students

50.7% Male
49.3% Female

98% graduation rate

72% AP test taken scored three or higher
53% Graduates enrolled in at least one dual enrollment college course
91% Graduates enrolled in higher education or enter workforce
87% Competent or Advanced in industry standards-based competency assessments

OUR REGION

1/3 of Lehigh County
4,200 miles per day, 55 buses

SCHOOLS & STAFF

4 schools + 1 digital academy

NWL Digital Academy offers students a cyber option with a NWL Diploma

21 average class size at elementary schools
26 average class size at middle and high schools

440 employees
76% of professional staff holds master’s degrees or higher

$47 million Annual Operating Budget

PROGRAMMING

STEAM Labs & MakerSpace in every school

51 elective offerings at NWLHS

230 wireless access points connect

3,673 devices & smartboards in classrooms district-wide

18 Varsity Sports
27 Extracurricular Activities

90% of HS student body participates in at least one extracurricular or athletic program

1:1 computer technology for all students K-12
Grades 6-12 have 24/7 access

Northwestern Lehigh School District

EMPOWER, INSPIRE, & LEAD OUR STUDENTS TO STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE IN & OUT OF THE CLASSROOM
As a parent of 3 students at Northwestern Elementary, I value many things about our school, so choosing just one thing was not an easy task. Over the past 6 years, Northwestern Elementary has become an extended family for me. From the friends we have all made to the care and support given by the faculty, staff and volunteers there is no other district where I'd rather raise a family. This feeling of family resonates the most with our daughter Abi who has needs that are unique to her. Before the holiday break I saw a video of a gymnasium full of students from all grades cheering her on during a “minute to win it” assembly.

My heart was full of pride not just for her, but for all of the children in that room. Then a couple of weeks ago when we were dropping off our oldest son Ben with his classmates at the Phantoms game and a 5th grade teacher exclaimed, “Hello Beautiful!” when Abi entered the room, it became evident that it is because of this example set by teachers that the students have learned to accept someone who is not just like them. I know my kids aren’t perfect, but Northwestern Elementary is the perfect place for them to be!

–Erin Smith, Parent and Partners in Education Secretary

Northwestern Lehigh is a small rural district with goals that focuses on academic excellence, data informed decision-making and the infusion of technology to improve teaching and learning. Central to the curriculum is a focus on strong foundational skills in reading, writing, social studies, science, mathematics, and digital literacy. These skills serve as the foundation for further learning, both in and out of the classroom.

Northwestern Lehigh offers a rigorous K-12 curriculum in core content areas and also offers numerous electives in fine arts, technology, business, world languages, and career education. The curriculum in all subject areas is based on national, state, and local standards and is reviewed on a regular basis. Curriculum development is coordinated from kindergarten through grade twelve to ensure continuity across schools and grades. District and state assessments measure how well the curriculum is mastered. Student achievement in all subject areas and in all grade levels is consistently above the state and national averages. Northwestern Lehigh continues to advance and prepare our community of learners for continued beyond the classroom.
Northwestern Lehigh School District has two elementary schools, Weisenberg Elementary School and Northwestern Elementary School, where our youngest learners begin their school experience. Although both buildings have unique culture and traditions, students in both of our elementary schools have the opportunity to be taught by dedicated staff who are committed to creating a positive experience for all students. Our focus in elementary school is nurturing the whole child while exposing them to a comprehensive academic curriculum that will be the building blocks of their academic instruction for the remainder of their tenure at Northwestern Lehigh.

- Developmentally appropriate full day kindergarten for all students
- 100% of students receive art, music, library, and physical education weekly
- Artist in Residence Programs
- Students as young as 5th grade are offered the opportunity to learn an instrument
- Every student is provided with a chromebook for teaching and learning activities
- Both elementary schools have a MakerSpace
- All classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards
- Meets or exceeds the standard for PA Academic Growth in all tested subjects in both buildings
- Opportunities for a well-rounded education through assemblies and presentations such as Safety Day, 3rd grade musical, Veterans Day programs, and Family Fun Night
- High level of parent and community involvement
- Personalized professional development for staff

“As technology in today’s world is advancing quickly, teaching and learning within our district is evolving. NWLSD students are fortunate to be able to learn hands on through the use of Weisenberg’s MakerSpace room. My second-grade daughter comes home and is excited to share what she has created using robots. Some districts only have access to one or two computers and iPads in the classroom. Our district is fortunate enough to have one available for each student. My twin Kindergarteners come home and can’t wait to tell me how many points they’ve earned on Reading Eggs using their own personal Chromebooks in the classroom. I am confident that NWLSD will prepare my children for their futures as they continue to become even more future ready using digital technology.” –Mel Martin, Parent & Weisenberg Elementary PTO Vice-President

“I love many things about NWE but I especially appreciate that it feels like a second home to my kids and many other students. The hallways are filled with friends, teachers and staff that feel like family. The kids come home from school feeling sincerely cared for, lifted up and genuinely special.” –Erica Seither, Parent and Partners In Education President
Our middle school is one of the top 3 School Performance Profiles among middle schools in Lehigh County (2018); and consistently meets or exceeds the standard for PA Academic Growth in all tested subjects. Our middle school builds upon students academic foundation with an exposure to higher level concepts; and focusing on their individual social, emotional, behavioral, and academic development and growth. Moreover, technology is an integral part of engaging students in the teaching and learning at the middle level. Along with a rigorous academic program, students participate in the related arts. Subjects such as art, music, technology education, physical education, computers, family & consumer sciences, and health round out a student’s middle level education. Middle school is also a time to explore career topics and interests, and participate in community service and learning projects.

- Middle school teaming is the keystone to our middle school philosophy
- Developmentally appropriate teaching and learning practices
- Every student is provided with a Chromebook as a personalized learning device; and every classroom is equipped with a Promethean Board
- Student led clubs, such as Academic Challenge, Student Council, Yearbook, and Tiger TV Broadcasting are among some of the clubs offered at the middle school
- Offer more than 30 exploratory activities, such as engineering, community service, yoga, and circuit training
- Opportunities to participate in band, chorus, and theatre
- Tiger PRIDE School-wide Positive Behavior Support Program to meet the social, emotional, and behavioral needs of all students.

“When our time at NWLMS is done, our family will have spent seven consecutive years here with our four children. While each of them have different strengths and needs, the support, professionalism, dedication, and compassion of the staff have been constant sources of support and encouragement for each of them. We appreciate the atmosphere and opportunities that allow them to thrive socially and academically, and we feel that the staff does a great job preparing the students for the transition to high school. Most importantly, our kids love going to school each day, and we are grateful!” –Sean and Lori George

“Our family has an enormous amount of appreciation and gratitude for the entire NWLSD Middle School administration and teaching staff. The love, dedication and commitment the faculty have for our children is apparent each and every day. Everyone has gone above and beyond for our “complicated” family, making sure that each of our children are inspired to perform at their best, focusing on each of them as an individual. We are proud to be a part of the Northwestern Lehigh School District family!” –K & C Tallman, Proud middle school parents of 6th, 7th and 8th graders
Northwestern Lehigh High School offers a library media center, STEAM lab, Technology Education lab, TV studio, 540-seat auditorium, 90-person capacity large group instruction (LGI) room with convertible seating, a gymnasium, guidance suite, attendance & main office/nurses’ suite, and Learning Annex. Every student in grades 9-12 is provided with a Macbook, as a personalized learning device, and every classroom has a SMARTboard.

Our high school program is academically rigorous and provides students with encouragement and opportunities to pursue their future goals. Students are required to take four (4) courses in math, English, science, and social studies; three (3) wellness/fitness classes, two (2) business/career/technology classes; and four (4) electives prior to graduation. Students have access to 51 electives including Spanish and German World languages taught by NWLHS faculty; seven (7) advanced placement (AP) courses taught by NWLHS faculty; 37 career and technical programs through Lehigh Career and Technical Institute (LCTI); six (6) dual enrollment courses taught by both NWLHS faculty and Lehigh Carbon Community College (LCCC); and access to off-campus dual enrollment classes through post-secondary institutions such as LCCC and Penn State University Lehigh Valley (PSULV). Our faculty has also created student opportunities for and access to online learning through Canvas and Google Classroom.

- Top-ranking School Performance Profile score in Lehigh County (89.5 in 2017-18)
- Every student is provided with a Macbook as a personalized learning device
- Keystone Exam Proficient / Advanced Percentage in Literature 85%, Algebra 75%, and Biology 77% (2018)
- 97% Graduation Rate
- 97% Competent or Advanced on industry standards based assessments (2017)
- Approximately 82% of the students in the Class of 2018 chose to attend a two- or four-year college while 12% joined the workforce directly out of high school.
- 7 AP Scholars, 6 AP Scholars with Honor, and 3 AP Scholars with Distinction in 2018
STUDENT & FAMILY SERVICES

Academic Intervention Services
• Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Process for students for K-8
• K-12 Student Assistance Program
• Academic Interventionist staff in each building

Gifted Education
• Programs provided for students who are identified as academically gifted

School Counseling Services
• Comprehensive School Counseling services in each school to support academic, social, and emotional growth of students as well as post secondary planning for all students
• Collaboration and communication with other counseling and medical facilities as well as a liaison with community agencies to support student needs

English Language Learner Services
• Educational programs that support students who are acquiring English language skills
• Facilitates translation and interpreter services

Health Services
• Led by a team of Certified School Nurses
• Promote and protect the health of our students
• Provide first aid and/or refer students for advanced medical care or evaluation
• Completion of mandated screenings
• Collaboration and communication with other health care providers to support student needs
• Individual Student Health Plans created for students with specific health needs

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports
• Positive Behavior Program in elementary and middle school
• Collaboration with the Center for Humanistic Change for support services

Special Education
• Programs provided for all exceptionalities through district run classes, neighboring school districts, private entities, and the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit
The District’s $47 million annual operating budget allocates approximately 84% of total budget funds towards instruction and related support services which allocates $22,000 per student. Local Real Estate Taxes account for 59% of the total revenue which supports annual spending. Northwestern Lehigh has the third lowest tax millage rate in Lehigh County. The average residential property is assessed at $220,000, and pays approximately $3,600 in annual school taxes. The district’s assessed value base is primarily comprised of residential properties, accounting for approximately 65% of the tax base, commercial and industrial properties comprise 18%, agricultural at 15% and other at 2%.

Northwestern Lehigh offers modern facilities including a newly renovated high school with flexible learning spaces that are used by our students, faculty, and community. Our facilities encompass 477,000 square feet of buildings on 77 acres of land and are cared for by a dedicated team of grounds, maintenance, and custodians. Our district campus is the central hub of the Northwestern Lehigh community and school district facilities are frequently utilized by the community for events. We are proud to offer our own in house transportation fleet with drivers that provide safe transportation to our 2200 students daily, driving 800,000 miles per year in our fleet of 65 vehicles.

Northwestern Lehigh provides students with a wide array of exciting extracurricular activities and athletic programs. Northwestern Lehigh High School offers 27 extracurricular activities and 18 varsity interscholastic sports, as well as junior varsity, jr. high, and middle school teams. Annually, an average of 90% of our high school student body participates in at least one extracurricular activity or athletic program. Our school is a member of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA), District XI, and the Colonial League. We have a quality relationship with Lehigh Valley Health Network, where our student-athletes have access to a range of sports medicine services, including athletic trainers and strength training.
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The Northwestern Lehigh School District provides a healthy balance of academic, athletic, and extracurricular activities. These programs, along with outstanding partnerships, make Northwestern Lehigh stand out as a school of choice.

Our Community Partners

- Northwestern Lehigh Educational Foundation
- NWE Partners in Education
- WEIS Parent Teacher Organization
- MS Parent Teacher Organization
- Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21
- Lehigh Career and Technical Institute
- Lehigh Carbon Community College
- Lehigh Valley Health Network
- New Tripoli Bank
- Allentown - West Rotary Club
- Christ's Church at Lowhill Food Pantry
- Northwestern Recreation Commission

Northwestern Lehigh Educational Foundation

The Northwestern Lehigh Educational Foundation (NWLEF) is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that supports the educational goals of the Northwestern Lehigh School District. It is an independent organization that relies on funding through donations from Northwestern Lehigh Alumni Association, parents, district residents, businesses, and friends. These funds are used to support educational programs that might not otherwise be funded, especially those programs that give our students the skills needed for today’s competitive global world. Since it’s inception ten years ago, NWLEF has provided more than $1 million dollars to fund unique and impactful real-world programs, projects, experiences, and activities for students.

Want to help? Many employers have a matching donation program where employees can donate to any 501(c)3 nonprofit charitable organization. Did you know the NORTHWESTERN LEHIGH EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION is a qualifying charitable organization and you can donate through your employer or through the United Way. This is a great way to help!

“The Northwestern Lehigh Educational Foundation is proud to have worked with the District for over ten years, helping to provide our children with the best education experience possible. The goal is to give every child the opportunity to succeed by funding educational programs that make a difference. This funding has amounted to over $1.2M and rising.”

–D.J. Wolbert, Northwestern Lehigh Educational Foundation, President
Lehigh Carbon Community College (LCCC) is our local community college where high school students and adult residents of Northwestern Lehigh can attend classes at one of four campus locations throughout the Lehigh Valley. LCCC, through a partnership with Northwestern Lehigh, offers high school students two opportunities to earn college credit while still in high school. Students can take dual enrollment courses offered at Northwestern Lehigh High School or courses at one of LCCC’s campus locations. The dual enrollment program allows high school students to take college courses at a reduced rate.

“Lehigh Career & Technical Institute (LCTI) offers more than 40 career and technical education programs for Lehigh County high school students. About 20 percent of Northwestern Lehigh students choose to make LCTI part of their high school experience. Located in nearby Schnecksville, LCTI provides Northwestern Lehigh students with opportunities to master practical skills, earn industry credentials, qualify for college credit, win scholarships, explore careers, develop leadership ability and gain real-world experience. LCTI helps ensure that students are college and career ready when they graduate from Northwestern Lehigh.”

“LCTI is Pennsylvania’s largest and one of the most respected career and technical institutes in the country. We’re also an extension of the Northwestern Lehigh School District. Our mission is workforce development, so we offer technical training in more than 40 programs for Northwestern Lehigh students, preparing them to be college and career ready. Our teachers use state-of-the-art technology and equipment to provide dynamic instruction. Working synergistically with business and industry, LCTI puts students on career pathways in high-demand technical fields.” —Thomas J. Rushton, Ed.D., Executive Director, Lehigh Career & Technical Institute

The partnership that Lehigh Carbon Community College has with the Northwestern Lehigh School District directly benefits students who are the personification of the college’s 50-year commitment to serving the community and our 13 sponsoring school districts. The college works to ensure that students have a direct pathway to higher education, starting with the Dual Enrollment program offered at the school district, where they take college courses and get a head start on their future. We are fortunate to be able to work with a superintendent who values providing higher education opportunities for Northwestern Lehigh, as we share the vision to inspire students to achieve their dreams.” —Ann D. Bieber, Ed.D., President, Lehigh Carbon Community College
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS

Jennifer Holman Superintendent
Troy Sosnovik, Ed.D. Assistant Superintendent
Leslie Frisbie Business Administrator
Luann Matika Director of Human Resources
Andrea Edmonds Director of Student Services
LeAnn Stitzel Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Arthur Oakes Director of Operations
Aileen Yadush Northwestern Lehigh High School Principal
Donald Allen Northwestern Lehigh High School Assistant Principal
William Dovico Northwestern Lehigh Middle School Principal
Amy Stauffenberg Northwestern Lehigh Middle School Assistant Principal
Jill Berlet Weisenberg Elementary School Principal
Maria Pulli Northwestern Elementary School Principal
Andrea Stock Food Services Supervisor
Jonathan Nederostek Chief of Police
Jason Zimmerman Director of Athletics & Student Activities

BOARD MEMBERS

Willard Dellicker School Board President
Todd Hernandez School Board Vice President
John Casciano School Board Secretary
Phillip Toll School Board Treasurer
Joseph Fatzinger School Board Member
Todd Leiser School Board Member
Marci Piescienski School Board Member
Alan Rex School Board Member
James Warfel, Ed.D. School Board Member
“We have many “Points of Pride” to celebrate, and blessings to be thankful for, in our school community; from our dedicated teachers, administrators and support personnel, to supportive families with motivated children, community support for financial resources and a culture of caring, hard work, and dedicated service.

It has been an absolute pleasure to serve on Northwestern Lehigh’s school board over the last thirty years. Trudie and I have had three Tigers who were successfully prepared for their adult lives at Northwestern and now we’re fortunate to have our five GrandTigers in High School, approaching their commencement to begin their pursuit of happiness.

The firm grounding, careful nurturing and top-notch education provided by our District’s teachers and staff have given thousands of our graduating Tigers the means to pursue successful careers, build loving families and give self-service to their fellow citizens.

What is most exciting, in my view, during all my years involved with our schools, is our current staff, our modernized facilities and comprehensive curriculum keeps getting better with every new school year.

This year, the cycle of our Strategic Planning will bring our community together again, to re-establish our future direction. Please make the time to get involved and participate in planning our future as part of the Strategic Planning Committee. Your participation will be rewarding for you, and your ideas will help our school to remain Future Ready and prepare our children to be successful. Make yourself part of Northwestern Lehigh’s success.”

–Willard Dellicker, Board President
We pride ourselves in working hard to create nurturing environments in which all children can learn.

Northwestern Lehigh has been called "the best kept secret of the Lehigh Valley", a school district on the cutting edge of progress. As a small rural district with goals that focus on academic excellence; data informed decision-making; the infusion of technology to improve learning, teaching, and operations; improved communications among all stakeholders; and the implementation of a Facilities Master Plan to renovate and expand facilities, Northwestern Lehigh continues to advance and prepare our community of learners for success in the twenty-first century. We welcome you to visit our website and learn more about our past, our present programs and activities and our goals for the future!

nwlehighsd.org | #TigerPride