



# Owen J. Roberts School District 2023-2024 Annual Report



# Inspiring Excellence. Inspired Students.



Dear Owen J. Roberts Community:

Welcome back to another exciting year! As part of our ongoing partnership with the community, we are pleased to share the 2023-24 Annual Report. Within this publication we highlight key moments and accomplishments from the 2023-2024 school year in the Owen J. Roberts School District.

OJR's annual report contains details about the academic offerings provided by the district, assessments of academic growth, student achievement, extra-curricular activities and more. The annual report serves as a guide to where we are as a district and our continued progress toward meeting all of our strategic goals.

The success of our students is due to the collaborative work of our teachers, support staff, parents, administrators and community partners. Together our community creates a learning environment that inspires our students to achieve their highest potential.

We want to thank our teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals, support staff and volunteers for their tireless work to make our school district a truly special place to live and work. We also want to thank our students, families and community supporters for their commitment to excellence and helping Owen J. Roberts earn its place among the top school districts in Pennsylvania.

We hope that you find this report to be a useful resource. We welcome community feedback and encourage you to reach out to the Superintendent's Office at (610) 469-5112.

Respectfully,

Rita Pederson  
School Board President

Dr. Will Stout  
Superintendent of Schools

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## Mission

Inspiring each student  
for success today and  
greatness tomorrow.

The Owen J. Roberts School  
District has a vision of moving  
from “Good to Great”.

Our focus is to,  
“Do the right thing at the right time  
for the right reason.”

## Board of School Directors

Rita Pederson, President  
Dr. John Melniczek, Vice President  
Beth Chaville-Fuller  
Warren Chester  
Sara Evans  
David Harmanos  
Jennifer Munson  
Dr. Nicholas Rotoli  
April Saboe

The nine members of the Owen J. Roberts School Board are elected at large to serve the citizens of East Coventry, East Nantmeal, East Vincent, South Coventry, North Coventry, West Vincent, and Warwick Townships. The Board meets on the third Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. In addition, the Board holds Working Sessions on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Input from our residents is always welcome.

## Shared Values

Together with parents, families and community, the Owen J. Roberts School District commits to provide opportunities for students to be successful in the all-academic areas including:

- Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening
- Mathematics
- Science and Technology
- Environment and Ecology
- Social Studies (Civics, Government, Geography, Economic and History)
- Arts and Humanities
- Career Education and Work
- Health, Safety and Physical Education
- Family and Consumer Science
- World Languages

If you have a question for the School Board, please email all Board of School Directors at [schoolboardmembers@ojrsd.net](mailto:schoolboardmembers@ojrsd.net)

# We are Wildcats

## Who We Are

The Owen J. Roberts School District services 5,426 students. The district has been in existence since 1965. The School District encompasses seven townships.

We are very proud of our history of academic excellence and we continue to strive to improve in all that we do. Our students perform well on all standardized tests and most of our students continue their education in post-secondary educational institutions.

We are supported by parents, community members, and members of the Board of School Directors who view our relationship as a partnership with goals of continuously providing quality education.



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### 2023-24 Quick Facts

- 7 Operating school buildings with nearly 1,100,000 square feet of building space
- 5,426 Students enrolled
- \$23,145 Total cost per pupil
- 82 School buses and 6 vans logged more than 1.5 million miles
- \$125 Million annual budget
- 7 Sending municipalities



# Owen J. Roberts Schools



## East Coventry Elementary School

Todd Oswald, Principal  
2461 East Cedarville Road, Pottstown, PA  
19465  
(610) 469-5103  
Enrollment: 519  
Grades K-6



- East Coventry Elementary is known for its warm, inclusive environment where students thrive academically and socially. The school celebrates its vibrant culture through beloved annual traditions such as the One Book, One School Adventure, Outdoor Classroom Day, spirit weeks, and an art show. These traditions help to strengthen bonds between students, staff, and families, fostering a sense of belonging and pride within the school community.
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## East Vincent Elementary School

Edward Smith, Principal  
340 Ridge Road, Spring City, PA 19475  
(610) 469-5106  
Enrollment: 533  
Grades K-6

- Classroom Connections and Community Spirit - At East Vincent Elementary, learning extends beyond the classroom. The PTA organizes events like the back-to-school bash, bingo nights, and the spring fling to bring families together. These activities help build a strong sense of community and connection, and families have plenty of opportunities to get involved and make lasting memories.
- Support Beyond Academics - The staff at East Vincent goes beyond teaching to support students and families. They work with local organizations to run food drives and clothing programs for those in need. Workshops like Parent University give parents resources to help their kids succeed. This commitment ensures that every child and family feels valued and supported.
- A Community That Cares - East Vincent Elementary is more than just a school. It's a place where students, parents, and staff come together to support one another. The school prioritizes education and community.



## French Creek Elementary School

Malinda McKillip, Principal  
3590 Coventryville Road, Pottstown, PA 19465  
(610) 469-5104  
Enrollment: 539  
Grades K-6



- French Creek’s students, staff, parents, and community members are the heart of our exceptional elementary school. Our primary focus is to educate the whole child in a safe and supportive learning environment. We believe this ensures students will be well prepared for a successful future.
- Educational decisions are based on providing a rigorous, content-rich, educational program aligned to Pennsylvania State Standards. As a school, we strive to assist all students in reaching benchmark, or advanced levels of proficiency across content areas. We also strive to develop strong writers with the ability to think critically and communicate effectively. Our curriculum embraces the use of a STEAM-based approach to problem solving. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).
- At the forefront of providing an engaging and enriching educational experience is an educational program that fosters exploration across a wide range of student interests. We recognize the value of the arts, not just through the traditional classes we provide, but through a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities.
- Social emotional learning at French Creek emphasizes the development of social and emotional skills, such as empathy, communication, and resilience. These are critical to a child’s overall growth and success.
- We value strong partnerships between home and school and strive to ensure French Creek is a welcoming and safe place for all members of our school community.



## North Coventry Elementary School

Heather Gillan-Esposito, Principal  
475 Kemp Road, Pottstown, PA 19465  
(610) 469-5105  
Enrollment: 581  
Grades K-6



- Our goal at North Coventry is to provide a safe and caring environment where all students can grow and learn. The belief that all students can succeed, but that each student defines success differently, is what drives our work and decisions. As such, we use data to guide our work in our classrooms and beyond so that we can best support all students.
- North Coventry is proud to use the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework to guide our work in establishing expectations for students to follow across all settings of the school. Students earn Wally tickets for displaying expected behaviors including for being respectful toward themselves, others, their school and their environment. While we continue to recognize students for displaying different character traits, these recognitions occur twice a month now and are tied into our monthly counseling lessons. For example, members of a grade level team, including the paraprofessionals that support that team, collectively identify students who best exemplify what was taught that month such as demonstrating a growth mindset or showing empathy for others.
- North Coventry is fortunate to have a strong PTO that creates events for students and families that are easily accessible as they are generally free. Over the course of the last year the PTO sponsored our annual Spring Fair, hosted the fall Craft Show for the community, coordinated a Someone Special Dance in the winter and hosted a Halloween Bingo night and a Winter Wonderland for students and families.
- North Coventry has a strong commitment to creativity and the arts. We are fortunate to have a 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade handbell ensemble that performs yearly at our Winter Concert. Additionally, three NC teachers serve as Odyssey of the Mind coaches for elementary, middle and high school teams within OJR. All these teams continue to perform exceptionally well on the state, national and world levels.
- At North Coventry, each and every day, students and staff are reminded to do three things: choose their attitudes, take time to play and do something that will make someone’s day.



## West Vincent Elementary School

Jeffrey Detweiler, Principal  
2750 Conestoga Road, Chester Springs, PA 19425  
(610) 469-5108  
Enrollment: 593  
Grades K-6



- West Vincent is extremely proud and honored to support the academic, social and emotional growth of all students. At West Vincent we strive to live our core values by supporting the growth of all students, encouraging lifelong learning, celebrating similarities and differences, and creating leaders of tomorrow!
- During the 22-23 school year, West Vincent held a highly engaging Earth Day event that focused on our core value of helping students grow academically, socially, and emotionally. The day kicked off with a walk to school event where over 100 students joined us for a walk from the Hankin Library to our school. Thanks to the West Vincent Township Police, who stopped traffic for us to ensure a safe trip to school! At school that day, students engaged in many activities that helped them to learn how to be better stewards of the Earth as well as how to work collaboratively in teams to solve challenges. At the end of the day, students were able to take home a bird feeder they made.
- West Vincent had a highly successful Science Fair during the 22-23 school year. Over 50 students engaged in the scientific research and experimentation process to discover amazing results! An evening event was held at the school so students could show off their projects and findings to the families of all of the participants. Following the West Vincent Science Fair, 15 students from Grades 4-6 were invited to participate in the Chester County Science Fair. Multiple students won awards at the Chester County Science Fair and we even had participation in the Delaware Valley Science Competition!
- During the 22-23 school year, our school collaborated with the West Vincent Township Clean Energy Transition Team to engage the school community in an idle free campaign. During student pickup and drop-off times, families were encouraged to turn off their vehicles to help reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Signs were placed around the driveways of our school and we noticed many families participating in the idle free campaign. Our buses even participated which further helped to reduce emissions! Family survey results showed that the campaign made a difference and even helped to change behaviors away from the school. We thank our community for pledging to be idle free!



## OJR Middle School

Corbin Stoltzfus, Principal  
881 Ridge Road, Pottstown, PA 19465  
(610) 469-5102  
Enrollment: 920  
Grades 7-8

- The middle school works closely with our school community to promote a safe and caring learning environment. Our staff understands the many challenges our students face and respond with the professionalism, compassion, and thoughtfulness needed to support the social, emotional, and academic growth of our students.
- We are invested in supporting our families and friends in their time of need. We seek opportunity to give back to our community in various ways through our service learning initiatives. Events such as Operation Giving Tree, Canned Food Drive, Student Faculty Basketball Game, Dodge Ball allows our students the opportunity to give back to our community and support the Coventry Food Pantry and families in need of support and care during difficult times. Additional opportunities for students include the Leo Club, Youth & Philanthropy Club and Builders Club. The middle school is proud of our students and staff for their commitment to community!
- We continue to provide a rigorous curriculum designed to challenge students to foster critical thinking, independent research, collaboration, and technology skills to prepare students to be successful beyond Middle School. Our students continue to impress our staff in their ability to outperform expectations in and out of the classroom.
- The school provides clubs and activities to support a diverse student body. Students can compete in over a dozen athletic teams, join both recreational and academic clubs, or participate in up to seven music ensembles.

# OJR High School

Steven Kollar, Principal  
981 Ridge Road, Pottstown, PA 19465  
(610) 469-5101  
Enrollment: 1725  
Grades 9-12



- The high school offers a broad and diverse set of courses, athletics, and extracurricular activities designed to help students to pursue their passions, while also exploring new interests in a collaborative and supportive environment. There are over 175 unique courses available to students across 14 different departments. Beyond the classroom, students are encouraged to participate on one of our 20 athletic teams or to get involved in one of our more than 75 different extracurricular programs.
- More than 150 high school students spend a portion of their day taking their elective courses at one of our partner programs offered through the Technical College High School-Pickering (TCHS) and the Octorara School District. There are 17 different programs offered including - Allied Health, Carpentry, Cosmetology, Electric Occupations, Homeland Security & Protective Services Academy, Teacher Leadership Academy, and many more.
- Academic achievement continues to be strong at the high school. Our students have excelled at both the state and national level. The Class of 2023 included 3 National Merit Semi-Finalists and 5 National Merit Commended Students as a result of their performance on the PSAT in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. 399 students took 699 Advanced Placement exams in 2022-2023 with students earning a 3 or higher on 69% of the exams taken.
- Within the Class of 2023, 11 students made up the 5th graduating cohort of International Baccalaureate students that earned the IB Career Programme Certificate. To earn the IB-CP certificate, students must demonstrate mastery on multiple IB exams, complete a reflective project, complete a service learning project, and pursue study in a second language. In total 59 IB exams were taken by students in English, Business Management, Environmental Systems, and Philosophy.
- Our Performing Arts continue to be a great source of pride for the school. Our award-winning Marching Band consists of more than 125 students and hosted its 50th annual cavalcade in the fall. The band also made a highly anticipated return trip to Walt Disney World for performances during spring break. Multiple choral, orchestra, and band students were recognized at both the district and state level on the merit of their skill set. The fall play, spring play, and winter musical performed to outstanding crowds and demonstrated the broad and diverse skill sets of our students.
- Students continue to excel on the local, regional, state, and national level as a result of their involvement at the high school. DECA and Odyssey of the Mind had two of the most prominent successes of the year. Our DECA chapter sent 63 students to the state competition and a record 31 of those students qualified for the International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida. Four of our Odyssey of the Mind teams placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in their division at the state competition and represented our school at the international event in East Lansing, Michigan.



# Owen J. Roberts Class of 2024

Owen J. Roberts High School held its 70th commencement exercise on the picture-perfect evening of Friday, June 7 in celebration of the Class of 2024. This year's graduating class consisted of 468 students who were presented as having met the requirements set by the Board of Education and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



# Service Learning at OJRSD



Our students and faculty are involved in all types of service learning throughout the district and in the community. Here are only a few examples:

- East Coventry Elementary is known for its warm, inclusive environment where students thrive academically and socially. The school celebrates its vibrant culture through beloved annual traditions such as the One Book, One School Adventure, Outdoor Classroom Day, spirit weeks, and an art show. These traditions help to strengthen bonds between students, staff, and families, fostering a sense of belonging and pride within the school community.
- With a strong focus on social skills development, East Coventry promotes positive behavior through its school-wide behavior system that rewards kindness, responsibility, and respect. The program was recognized by the Commonwealth for its comprehensive system of interventions and supports. The dedicated and caring staff work collaboratively to support each child's growth, ensuring that every student feels valued, safe, and empowered. The active Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) plays a crucial role in organizing events and supporting initiatives that enhance the school experience.
- East Coventry students excel both academically and in their personal development. The school offers a thriving and enriching STEAM program that encourages hands-on learning in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. After-school opportunities are plentiful, with students participating in clubs and activities that include coding, intramurals, and leadership development. The school also boasts a fine arts program, featuring a talented chorus, band, and orchestra that allow students to explore and showcase their musical abilities.
- Each year, North Coventry has a group of 6th grade students participate in a service organization called K-Kids. K-Kids or Kiwanis Kids is the largest service organization for elementary students in the country. NC K-Kids assist with various events throughout the school, district and community. These students have read to younger grades, created interactive displays around the building that promote counting as well as raised money to donate to local organizations by selling candy grams at Valentine's Day.
- The West Vincent Annual White Out is a collection of "white goods (personal care items) for the Coventry Food Pantry, such as toilet paper, soap, tissues, shampoo, toothpaste, etc. These items are in great demand at local food pantries.
- West Vincent created gratitude placemats for the residents of Kadima Rehabilitation & Nursing on Chestnut Hill Rd. in Pottstown
- West Vincent K-kids collected small treats & surprises, wrote notes of inspiration to stuff hand-made spring poppers for local Veterans at Spring City Veterans Hospital for them to enjoy with their meals.
- Make a Difference Day Food Drive - The district wide collection benefits the Coventry Food Pantry. Items are collected to fill a school bus and dropped off at the pantry.
- Pink Out - The Pink Out financially benefits Unite for Her through selling Pink Out gear. Unite For Her enriches therapies for women diagnosed with breast and ovarian cancer.
- OJR Middle School Best Buddies educated and raised money for Save Connor, educated about Autism Awareness, and Spread the Word Inclusion. This year Best Buddies are planning on doing Rock Your Socks for Down's Syndrome.
- At OJR Middle School: The Life Skills Class does an annual Veteran's Day card writing project; the garden club served the community by providing fresh produce to the Chester County Food Bank; the Tri-M Chapter raised \$2,300 for the Reading Musical Foundation that went towards fixing local students' instruments and grant money for private lessons; Student Council collected toys for the Pottstown Salvation Army through the Operation Giving Tree initiative and also does an annual drive each spring to collect non-perishable food and personal hygiene supplies for the Coventry Food Pantry.
- The OJR Middle School Youth & Philanthropy Club donated \$6,500 to a variety of non-profit organizations in our community thanks to a grant provided by the Phoenixville Community Health Foundation. Over the years, the club has supported numerous organizations, including: Montgomery County Emergency Services, Animal House Project, Coatesville Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Team CMMD, Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy, ARC of Chester County, Canine Partners 4 Life, Friends Association, Alianzas de Phoenixville and more.

# Extra-Curricular Activities

At the elementary level, students are able to participate in a wide variety of offerings, which include some of the following: Bible Club, Book Club, After School Tutoring, Cooking for Real, Cross Country Run, Drama Club, Intramurals (Flag Football, Floor Hockey, Soccer, Spring Base Sports), Girls on the Run, Hand Bells, Homework Club, K-Kids, Lions Club, Odyssey of the Mind, Reading Olympics, Science Explorers, Yoga, Green Valley Nature Club and World Language Club to name just a few.

At the secondary level, students can participate in a variety of athletic teams and clubs. The district offers fall, winter and spring sports. In the fall and winter of the 2023-2024 school year, over 1,200 students participated in various sports/music. Athletes participated in varsity, junior varsity, and freshman offerings. Students also participated in over 75 clubs and extra-curricular offerings throughout the past year.

## Notable Student Extracurricular Achievements

OJRSJ is proud of the accomplishments of all of its students. Highlighted below are examples of the many noteworthy accomplishments during the 2023-24 school year.

### Fall 2023

**G Cross-Country**- finished 4-1, **PAC champions, District Champions**, placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at states  
**State Qualifiers- Jane Kratz, Khya D'Angelo, Ellie Thompson, Amelie Blatz, Halle Kish, Nora Horton, Hannah Oldham, Isabella Diberardinis, Kylie Bigham**

**Jane Kratz- PAC Champ, District Champ, 2<sup>nd</sup> at States**

**GSOC**- finished 17-7, **PAC Champions**, qualified for districts as the #10 seed, beat Abington and Neshaminy before losing in the quarterfinals and playbacks.

**FB**- finished 9-3, qualified for districts as the #8 seed, first ever home playoff game, beat Neshaminy and lost to Downingtown West in the quarter-finals

**BSOC**- finished 13-7, qualified for districts as the #15 seed, beat Upper Dublin and lost to WC Henderson in the round of 16.

**B Golf**- finished 7-3, qualified for PACs and lost in the semis.  
District qualifiers- Patrick Schlegel, Brody Calle, Leif Matlack and Colin Daugherty

**FH**- finished 11-8-1, qualified for districts as the #18 seed, beat Ridley and then lost to CB West in the round of 16.

**VB**- finished 11-7

**GTEN**- finished 6-6

**B Cross Country**- finished 2-3



**G Golf**- finished 4-9

## **PAC Awards**

### **PAC Citizenship Award**

*Boone Toguchi (FB)*

### **PAC Scholar-Athletes**

*Grace Pudleiner (CHR)*

*Jazlynn Campbell (FH)*

*Boone Toguchi (FB)*

*Noah Grabowicz (B Golf)*

*Sophia Segrave-Daly (G Golf)*

*William Lachman (B CC)*

*Lauren Monaco (G CC)*

*Colin Jones (BSOC)*

*Fiona Sanders (GSOC)*

*Sophie Vu (GTEN)*

*Malin Jordan (VB)*

## **Winter 2023-2024**

### **Boys Wrestling**

*Tyler Mack 6th PAC's*

*Brady Quinn 5th PAC's, 3rd D-1N*

*Logan Brower 5th PAC's*

*Quinn Carr 4th PAC's, 6th D-1N*

*Alex Brandt 3rd PAC's, 4th D-1N*

*Dysen Neil 3rd PAC's, 4th D-1N*

*Michael Godri 2nd PAC's*

*Sam Geatreau 1st PAC's, 1st D-1N, 2<sup>nd</sup> SE Regional, 3<sup>rd</sup> at States*

*Dean Bechtold 1st PAC's, 1st D-1N, 1<sup>st</sup> SE Regional, 2<sup>nd</sup> at States*

*Dillon Bechtold 1st D-1N, 1<sup>st</sup> SE Regional, State Champion*

*Joaquin Fernandez 6th D-1N*

*Blane Schmoyer 5th D-1N*

The team placed 5th at the PIAA Southeast Regional Championship & 5<sup>th</sup> at states

### **Girls Wrestling**

*Raylyn Schwoyer - 2nd place districts*

*Gianna Jones - 4th place districts*

*Emma Englehardt - 4th place districts*

### **Girls Swimming & Diving**

#### **Undefeated PAC Champions**

*200 Medley Relay: 13th Place states*

*Kaitlyn McGuire, Mackenzie Gorman, Meredith Hummel, Audrey Schreoder*

*200 Freestyle Relay: 13th Place states*

*Kaitlyn McGuire, Mackenzie Gorman, Meredith Hummel, Audrey Schreoder*

*400 Freestyle Relay: 11th Place states*

*Kaitlyn McGuire, Mackenzie Gorman, Meredith Hummel, Audrey Schreoder*

*50 Freestyle: 24th Place states, Kaitlyn McGurie*

*100 Butterfly: 17th Place states, Audrey Schreoder*

### **Cheerleading**

*Qualified for UCA Nationals at Disney for the first time in school history*

### **Indoor Track**

*Girls 4x800m (9<sup>th</sup> at states)- Fiona Sanders, Amelie Blatz, Ellie Thompson, and Jane Kratz*

*Girls 800m (6<sup>th</sup> at states)- Jane Kratz*

### **Boys Basketball**

Luke Fryer- 1,184 career points (3<sup>rd</sup> all-time leading scorer in OJR history)

### **PAC Awards**

#### **Scholar Athletes**

*Jude Moes (boys swimming & diving)*

*Emma Valbert (girls swimming & diving)*

*Jack Cashman (boys basketball)*

*Abigail Smith (girls basketball)*

*Grace Capooocia (girls wrestling)*

*Cadence Taylor (cheerleading)*

*Roberto Vidal (boys wrestling)*

*Alex Braun (boys indoor track)*

*Grace Kolter (girls indoor track)*

#### **Citizenship Award**

*Emma Valbert (girls swimming & diving)*

## **Spring 2024**

### **Girls Lacrosse**

Finished 14-7, **PAC Champions**, qualified for districts as the #17 seed and lost to Springfield DELCO in the first round.

### **Boys Lacrosse**

Finished 12-8, advanced to PAC championship, qualified for districts as the #14 seed, defeated Wissahickon in the first round and lost to Garnet Valley in the second round.

### **Baseball**

Finished 15-7, qualified for PAC semis, qualified for districts as the #4 seed, lost to Spring-Ford in the second round.

### **Softball**

Finished 9-12, qualified for districts as the #24 seed, lost to Spring-Ford in the first round.

### **Boys Tennis**

Finished 11-4, *Talan Nguyen PAC Singles Champion and district qualifier, Talan Nguyen & Jack Sawicki PAC Doubles Champions and district qualifiers.*

### **Unified Track**

Had a successful first season and placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Chester/DELCO County Championshi.

### **Girls Track & Field**

Finished 4-1, **PAC Champions**

*Jane Kratz- PAC Champ (400m, 1600m, 4x800m Relay), 5<sup>th</sup> at districts in 800m, 6<sup>th</sup> at districts in 1600m, 4<sup>th</sup> at districts in 4x800m relay, 6<sup>th</sup> at states in 800m, 5<sup>th</sup> at states in 1600m, 8<sup>th</sup> at states in 4x800m relay*

*Fiona Sanders- PAC Champ (4x800m Relay), 4<sup>th</sup> at districts in 4x800m relay, 8<sup>th</sup> at states in 4x800m relay*

*Amelie Blatz- PAC Champ (4x800m Relay), 4<sup>th</sup> at districts in 4x800m relay, 8<sup>th</sup> at states in 4x800m relay*

*Ellie Thompson*- PAC Champ (4x800m Relay), 4<sup>th</sup> at districts in 4x800m relay, 8<sup>th</sup> at states in 4x800m relay

*Julia Bold*- PAC Champ Triple Jump, 4<sup>th</sup> at districts, 14<sup>th</sup> at states

*Gianna Leimeister*- 4<sup>th</sup> placed at districts in javelin, 11<sup>th</sup> at states

### **Boys Track & Field**

Finished 4-1

*Declan Gallagher*- PAC Champ (High Jump), 3<sup>rd</sup> at districts, 9<sup>th</sup> at states

*Matt Gregory*- 4<sup>th</sup> in 100m at districts, 4<sup>th</sup> in 200m at districts, 8<sup>th</sup> at states in 100m, 12<sup>th</sup> at states in 200m

### **PAC Awards**

#### **Academic Team**

*Braedon Erickson (BB)*

*Sophia Cerimele (SB)*

*Blake Walther (BLAX)*

*Brooke Cano (GLAX)*

*Abigail Smith (G TR)*

*Casey Davies (B TR)*

*Soham Deshmukh (BTEN)*

#### **Citizenship Award**

*Soham Deshmukh (BTEN)*



## Health & Wellness



Owen J. Roberts School District has been active with wellness programming since 2004. Fit for Life projects encourage positive lifestyle adoption for students, staff, and community. Many programs have been made possible through a generous grant from the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation as part of their mission to educate, engage, and empower individuals to make healthy choices for a lifetime of wellness. The 2018-2020 grant of \$168,000 supported endeavors to enhance the social, emotional, and physical health of our school communities using the CDC Whole School, Whole Child model. Challenge Day, Farm Day, RUN101, Every Kid in a Park, and Go for the Greens, and Social Emotional Days are all examples of Fit for Life programming.

## Community Involvement

In many ways, Owen J. Roberts School District is the heart of the community. The district serves not only as the educational hub, but its schools are also epicenters of community activity. Scout troops, recreational leagues and adult education are just some of the ways in which our facilities are shared. Owen J. Roberts School District also opens its doors hosting regional level competitions in robotics, band, choir and more. These events enhance education and support the local economy.



The district has long served the adult community with a broad spectrum of affordable continuing education classes which are managed by the Chester County Night School. The Senior Work Program is a mutually-supportive relationship between the community and the school district. At the core of this program is the belief that the entire community can help create a positive contribution to the quality of education of the children who live here.

Students attending OJR schools demonstrate a strong attachment to community. In addition to the thousands of hours of community service for which our students volunteer, they also love hosting and entertaining the community. There are free concerts and art shows throughout the year. Many of our schools have large, heartfelt celebrations to honor veterans, parents and grand friends. At the high school level, the annual Senior Citizen Concert and Tea is completely funded, managed and delivered by students. The Roberts Education Foundation hosts a Safe Trick or Treat Night for children who reside in the community. The community comes together each year to supply the local food pantry for Make a Difference Day and to raise awareness for Breast Cancer as part of Pink Out.

# Instructional Data Executive Summaries

## High School Data

**International Baccalaureate (IB) results** - Each year the students who are enrolled in the IB Career Program complete the tests for the two-year classes and one-year classes. Scores range from 1 to 7 with a score of 3 or higher as passing. Like the Advanced Placement courses, colleges and universities permit students to use IB test scores to count for college courses. The individual college sets the threshold score needed for each test. This can vary by college as well as by a selected major within a college. OJR students who completed the IB exams scored between 2 and 7 among four exams, indicating that most students passed the exams. Of the 23 students eligible for the Career Program Certificate, 22 students scored high enough on the reflective project and their exams to qualify for the certificate. IB exams can be used by students for the PA Graduation Requirements as an alternative test to the Keystone. IB course enrollment is included on the PA Future Ready site data for the high school in the College and Career Measures because it contributes to the percent of students who are enrolled in Rigorous Courses of Study.

Learn More: Spring, 2024 International Baccalaureate [Results](#)

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**Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT)**, formerly known as the Scholastic Aptitude Test - The SAT test is optional and students register to take the test at the high school (typically on a Saturday morning) or at another testing location. Many students take the SAT in 11th grade. The SAT has a range of 200-800 for each of the sections, Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (ERW) and Mathematics. For the 2024 cohort, OJR students had a higher mean score than the national average. Specifically, 580 for OJR for ERW compared with 480 nationally and 565 for OJR for Mathematics compared with 530 nationally. The scores for OJR are comparable to previous years, since the test was revised in 2016. There were 298 students from the OJR Class of 2024 who took the SAT. If a student has taken all three Keystone exams, but not fulfilled Keystone Graduation Requirements via proficiency or a composite score, an SAT score of 1010 will satisfy Keystone Graduation Requirements.

Learn More: 2024 Cohort SAT Final [Report](#)

Learn More: SAT Summary [Data](#)

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**Advanced Placement (AP) Exams** - Like IB exams, AP exam scores can be used by some colleges and universities for course advancement and for placement. The score threshold needed varies by college, program, and major. AP tests are scored with a range of 1 to 5. A passing score is a 3 or higher. Like IB, students may take an AP course and choose not to take the AP exam. There are two sets of data included for this report. The first set is the 5 year summary report. This report provides the breakdown of the scores over a five year period for each of the tests taken by students from OJR. The report also lists the mean score of those tests. The second data set is the score breakdown just for the students who tested in 2024. The AP test data has varied considerably over the past several years. In the past, the high school has had the goal to increase the number of students who enroll in AP classes as well as the number of students who choose to take the AP exams. Like IB courses, teachers who are assigned AP courses must complete specific training before teaching the class. Students have access to test preparation materials and teachers are encouraged to have students complete the AP exam sample questions throughout the school year. Students often choose to take AP courses based on the reputation or rapport that they have with the assigned teacher. There are several notable results for the 2024 AP scores. Ten subjects had exam scores with the highest average scores over a five year period, these include: Chemistry, English Language and Composition, US Government and Politics, French, Macroeconomics, German, Latin, Music Theory, United States History, and World History. Like the IB and

SAT, AP exams can be used by students to fulfill PA Graduation Requirements if they have taken each Keystone exam and not satisfied the proficiency or composite pathway. AP course enrollment is included on the PA Future Ready site data for the high school in the College and Career Measures because it contributes to the percent of students who are enrolled in Rigorous Courses of Study.

**Learn More: AP Current year summary [Scores](#)**

**Learn More: AP 5 year summary [Report](#)**



**High School Keystone Data** - Students take a Keystone end of course exam in Algebra 1, Biology, and Literature. Typically, OJR students take Biology in 9th or 10th grade and Literature in 10th grade. Students can complete Algebra 1 in grades 6-11, with most students taking it in grade 8 and the next largest group taking it in grade 7. Scores from Keystone tests are “banked” for students and reported in the fall of their senior year. For the current seniors, the Class of 2025, the Keystone results indicate the percent of students who were proficient or advanced on their end of course exams in Algebra 1, Biology, and Literature. Students are required to take the Keystone exams as part of their PA Graduation Requirements and students are permitted to retest for a Keystone exam. Beginning with the Class of 2023, high school students have more than one pathway for meeting the PA Graduation requirements. For this reason, the high school administration, guidance counselors, and MTSS Coordinator review each student record and make recommendations for which groups of students would be best served to retest with Keystone exams, which students would be best served to use an alternative test score, and which students would be best served to use the evidence based pathway for graduation. For this reason, some years will have more students retesting than others. Another significant difference for the Keystone results for this year compared with previous years is the Algebra 1 results and when students finished Algebra 1. For the Class of 2025, students were in 7th grade in 2020 when they were exempt from the Keystone Algebra 1 test. As a result, there are 144 students who have no score for the Keystone Algebra 1 exam. These students were not required to take the exam to meet their graduation requirements. Instead, their requirements were based on the remaining Keystone exams which were given when they finished Biology and Literature in high school. Since there are 144 scores not included among the tested students, the Keystone Algebra 1 score is much lower than previous years. This same situation occurred for OJR in 2022 for Literature and Biology. It occurred again in 2023 with reduced tested students for Biology. This will continue to be an issue for one more year since some students take the Keystone Algebra 1 test in grade 6. Since the Keystone scores are no longer the only graduation pathway, fewer students will retest; however, these scores continue to be used for purposes other than graduation. Specifically, these scores are frequently used as part of the criteria for publications like the US News and World Report rankings for high schools and niche.com school rankings. Keystone scores are used for the PA Future Ready site for the high school to report both achievement and growth in mathematics, ELA, and science.

**Learn More: Keystone data - 2025 [Cohort](#)**

**High School LinkIt! Data** - Interim benchmark assessments are used to gauge student progress during the school year in preparation for Keystone assessments. The LinkIt! Benchmark assessment was used in 2023-2024 for monitoring progress toward proficiency for the Keystone Biology and Keystone Literature assessments. For these data listed there are two sections reported, Achievement and Achievement Distribution. The Achievement lists the average score on the benchmark test for fall, winter and spring (Form A, B, C) and the proficiency range (bubble range is considered proficient). For the spring data for both Literature and Science, the average LinkIt! Scores were in the proficient range. For the Achievement Distribution, the percent of students scoring above basic from the LinkIt! benchmark is listed. This is the

most recent predictor for the Keystone. The Keystone score was listed when available. The interim data is closely aligned to the Keystone data for 2024, especially for Biology and Literature and less aligned for Algebra 1.

**Learn More: LinkIt! 2024 Spring [Data](#)**

*(Use the tab for ELA and science and scroll to the right for HS data)*

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## **Middle School Data**

**Keystone Algebra 1 Data** - Students take a Keystone end of course exam in Algebra 1 and most students complete Algebra 1 by the end of grade 8. Scores from Keystone tests are “banked” for students and reported in the fall of their senior year. For the 2024 Middle School Keystone scores, the results are consistent with previous cohorts for grades 6 and 7. Most students taking Algebra 1 at this level are successful on the Keystone exam. For grade 8, the Keystone results were higher this year, 65% compared with 50% last year. These students have more than one pathway for meeting the graduation requirements. Keystone data is included on the PA Future Ready site for the middle school as part of the mathematics growth score but not the mathematics achievement score. Keystone achievement is reported as part of the high school for the PA Future Ready site.

**Learn More: Keystone Algebra 1 [2024](#) (Class of 2028 - 2030)**

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**Middle School PSSA Data** - The grade 7 and grade 8 PSSA results are listed for the current year and the previous four years. The results are consistent with results from previous years. For 2024, as in previous years, the grade 7 scores are higher than the grade 8 scores. There were increases in both ELA and mathematics achievement for 8. The data presented include results for all reportable subgroups including a breakdown by gender and race. The results are consistent with previous years for the subgroup data for the middle school students. Although the average scores for the state are not yet available for 2024, the OJR Middle School results are considerably higher than the state averages for 2023. For ELA, mathematics, and science, the middle school students earned scores that were approximately 15% higher than the state averages for those subjects. The PSSA data for the middle school is included on the PA Future Ready site for mathematics, ELA, and science for both achievement and growth for all students. The data are not separated by grade level except for science which is only tested in grade 8.

**Learn More: PSSA results with cohort and five year data [Results](#)**

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**Middle School Link It Data** - Interim benchmark assessments are used to gauge student progress during the school year in preparation for PSSA assessments. The LinkIt! Benchmark assessment was used in 2023-2024 for monitoring progress toward proficiency for the PSSA math, ELA, and science assessments. For these data listed there are two sections reported, Achievement and Achievement Distribution. The Achievement lists the average score on the benchmark test for fall, winter and spring (Form A, B, C) and the proficiency range (bubble range is considered proficient). For the Achievement Distribution, the percent of students scoring above basic from the LinkIt benchmark is listed. This was most closely aligned to PSSA for grade 8 math and grade 7 ELA.

**Learn More: LinkIt! 2024 Spring [Data](#)**

*(Use the tab for ELA and science and scroll to the right for MS data)*

## **Elementary School Data**

**Elementary School PSSA Data** - The district-wide grade level data is listed by subject. There were increases in ELA for the cohort data. Specifically, the grade 4 to grade 5 ELA scores increased for that cohort and also for grade 5 to grade 6 for ELA. In mathematics, grade 4 overall achievement was higher this year compared with last year. Science is tested in grade 4 and remains high. There was an increase from last year. The individual school data is presented for each grade and subject. There are both increases and decreases among the five schools. The most notable data are the increases in mathematics in grade 3 for North Coventry, grade 4 ELA for North Coventry and East Vincent and grade 4 math at West Vincent. Similarly, there were increases for grade 5 ELA at West Vincent and Grade 5 mathematics for West Vincent, East Coventry, North Coventry, and French Creek. Grade 6 had increases for ELA for West Vincent and East Coventry. The data is further disaggregated for the subgroups, including race and gender. The PSSA scores are included on the PA Future Ready site for each school for achievement and growth for mathematics, ELA, and science. Individual grade level data is not separated, except for science which is only tested in grade 4. Beginning this year, science will be tested in grade 5.

**Learn More: PSSA results with cohort and five-year data** [Results](#)

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**Elementary School Link It Data** - Interim benchmark assessments are used to gauge student progress during the school year in preparation for PSSA assessments. The LinkIt! Benchmark assessment was used in 2023-2024 for monitoring progress toward proficiency for the PSSA math, ELA, and science assessments. For these data listed there are two sections reported, Achievement and Achievement Distribution. The Achievement lists the average score on the benchmark test for fall, winter and spring (Form A, B, C) and the proficiency range (bubble range is considered proficient). For the spring data for both math and Science, the average LinkIt! Scores were in the proficient range for grades 2, 3, and 4. It was in the proficient range for ELA for grades 3, 5, and 6. For the Achievement Distribution, the percent of students scoring above basic from the LinkIt benchmark is listed. This is the most recent predictor for the PSSA. The PSSA data for math was comparable to the LinkIt! data but lower in some grades. It was closer aligned for ELA and science.

**Learn More: LinkIt! 2024 Spring** [Data](#)

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**Elementary Interim Data** - The AIMSWEB+ assessment is a universal screener for ELA and the grade levels have different reading tests and the thresholds for meeting the benchmark increase from fall to winter and winter to spring. Results indicate the percent of students who have met the benchmark by grade level for each subtest. For the LinkIt! data, the ELA test will be given later in October. Both IXL ELA and math data are listed. Interim data at the elementary level is used to make instructional decisions and intervention groups. The MTSS Coordinator, Academic Coach, and classroom teachers develop intervention plans for groups of students throughout the school year. This data is monitored regularly as students make progress during the school year. The LinkIt! Benchmark will not be used for grade 5 science this year since it is a new test for the students and the assessment has not yet been aligned to the new PSSA test.

**Learn More: Elementary Interim Fall 2024** [Data](#)

## District wide data

**Pennsylvania Alternative System of Assessment (PASA)** - The students who are eligible to take the PASA instead of the PSSA or Keystone qualify based on several criteria including the services provided in their IEP. Students taking the PASA have “significant cognitive disabilities” as defined by PDE and are only eligible for the PASA if they cannot take the PSSA or Keystone with classroom accommodations. Currently, the PASA is administered through the Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment System Consortium. Results of the assessment are shared with student families. Given the number of students involved, the data is not included on the public website or the PA Future Ready site because in many instances, it would be personally identifiable.

**Learn More: PASA [Results](#)**

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**World Class Design and Assessment Consortium WIDA data** - Students who are English Language Learners complete the annual state English Language Proficiency Assessment. This assessment provides educators with information about a student’s instructional level of the English language and the content language of social studies, science, and mathematics. English Language Learners who are in their first year of school in Pennsylvania do not take the ELA PSSA but are permitted to take other versions (Spanish) for science and mathematics. The WIDA assessment is clustered into grade level bands (K, 1-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12). The test involves listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

**Learn More: WIDA [Data](#)**



# Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)



According to the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN), *“Pennsylvania’s Integrated Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) is a standards-aligned, comprehensive school improvement framework designed to enhance academic, behavioral, and social-emotional outcomes for all students ...[via]... equitable access to high-quality, standards-aligned instruction and supplemental interventions.”*

The Owen J. Roberts School District has been incorporating elements of the MTSS framework since introducing a “Response to Instruction and Intervention” (RTII) model during the 2006-07 school year. In recent years, the district has re-emphasized its systems oriented approach to supporting all students, with significant momentum developing first at the secondary level during the 2021-22 school year, as MTSS teams at OJR High School and OJR Middle School worked to address the diverse educational challenges facing students in the post-pandemic era. Building on this foundation, the 2023-24 school year marked the launch of a district-wide, comprehensive K-12 MTSS initiative. This effort focuses on strengthening the system across three critical tiers of support.

At the Tier 1 (universal) level, the district emphasizes best practices to enhance core instruction and ensure access for ALL students through strategies like Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and differentiated instruction. In addition, universal approaches to supporting student behavior and social-emotional growth have been a major focus. Key initiatives include the adoption of a new "flex" model at OJR High School, the implementation of a universal social-emotional learning (SEL) curriculum at OJR Middle School, and a district-wide effort to refine and align Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) programs across all elementary schools (\*for more information on these and other efforts please see the district’s Mental Health Strategic Plan).

With regard to Tier 2 and Tier 3 support systems (supplemental support), the district has worked to develop comprehensive universal screening processes to allow for the early detection of students who may be at risk for poor outcomes (academic, behavioral, or social-emotional). Once identified through universal screening (\*and a review of other available data), interventions are selected and implemented to address student needs. In addition, student progress is monitored over time to monitor the effectiveness of these interventions. Collectively, these prevention-oriented practices allow the district to provide timely and targeted support for students as needs develop, thereby avoiding a more reactive "wait to fail" approach to student support.

Ongoing MTSS improvement efforts continue at all levels—elementary, middle, and high school—to expand the district’s capacity to provide both high-quality core instruction that is accessible to all students and supplemental support for those in need. This includes developing more robust systems of academic instruction and interventions (e.g., reading and math) in combination with systems to support other key areas of student development (e.g., language, fine-/gross-motor, behavior, social-emotional development, and executive functioning skills).

# Mental Health Strategic Plan

Owen J. Roberts' Mental Health Strategic Plan was completed by a multi-disciplinary team of teachers, counselors, psychologists, and administrators, representing all schools and grade-levels across the district, with a mission to create a community where everyone feels LOVED, SAFE, and HEARD.

The plan provides a detailed overview of our district's ongoing efforts to support the mental health, well-being, and optimal development of all members of our school community.

To learn more about the strategic plan, [click here](#) or visit the Pupil Services Department's portal on the Owen J. Roberts website at <https://www.ojrsd.com/Page/10621>.

## Owen J. Roberts School District Mental Health Strategic Plan

Developed in Coordination with the Chester County  
Consortium for Mental Health and Optimal Development Led  
by The University of Pennsylvania



# Curriculum, Instruction & Professional Development

## Owen J. Roberts School District Offerings

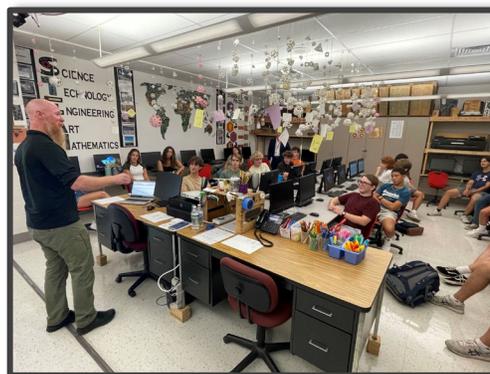
### Innovative Curriculum

The Owen J Roberts School District uses Understanding by Design (UbD) as a framework for designing curriculum units, performance assessments, and instruction to lead students to a deep understanding of curricular content. This requires that teachers develop overarching understandings for each discipline and essential questions for each course so that students can gain in-depth meaning and make connections throughout their learning experiences. The curriculum is standards-based, incorporates inquiry-based learning, and performance-based projects throughout the years. Additionally, all curricular areas are part of a five-year writing and revising cycle designed to keep curriculum current and innovative. Student expectations are realistic yet rigorous as the district prepares each student to graduate as a well-rounded, life-learner equipped with the skills needed to become productive members of the global society in which they live.



### Professional Development

Through a data-driven decision-making process, OJRSD provides professional development opportunities for its staff in the areas of curriculum, instruction, special education, technology, educational research, and assessment so that OJR students continue to benefit from an excellent educational program. As an approved Act 48 provider, OJRSD continually provides ample opportunities for teachers to earn professional education credits. Teachers may earn Act 48 credit in a variety of areas provided it is new learning that directly relates to their specific content area and classroom instruction. This includes attending conferences and/or participating in approved OJRSD Act 48 sessions. The district believes that educators have a wealth of knowledge to share not only with their students, but with each other as well. The district offers teachers the opportunity to teach approved flex sessions throughout the school year, outside of the regular school day. In a collegial environment teachers learn to use current technology and create lessons for use in their classrooms.



# Highlighted Academic Offerings

## Accelerated Mathematics: Challenging our Math Students

Students have academic opportunities to accelerate and challenge themselves throughout the elementary, middle, and high school programs. Elementary students are exposed to a standards and conceptual based program for mathematics with an emphasis on problem solving skills and higher order thinking. Many of our students will have the opportunity to begin Geometry and all students at this level will begin studying Algebra.



Students have access to honors classes at the middle school and high school for mathematics. Middle school students may participate in summer enrichment classes in order to satisfy course prerequisites to move to the next level. At the high school level, students may earn credit by evaluation or students may participate in summer enrichment classes in order to satisfy course prerequisites to move to the next level.

## High School Advanced Placement (AP) Courses, International Baccalaureate (IB) & Dual Enrollment Courses

High School students have access to Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment, and International Baccalaureate courses – including 26 AP courses, 6 IB courses, 62 Honors courses, and College Prep courses.

IB is a two-year certificate program, with coursework connected through the core course. The program allows for independence and pursuit of personal interests, and students that satisfactorily complete all requirements earn both an OJRSD Diploma and the IB CP Certificate.

Dual Enrollment courses at Owen J. Roberts High School enable students to earn college credit for classes taken at OJR and taught by their high school teacher. As part of the program, students must register and pay a fee to earn college credit and adhere to the policies of each college on accepting credits. Current partnerships include Immaculata University, Immaculata University/Delaware County Community College, Delaware Valley University and Montgomery County Community College.

Students can also enroll in dual enrollment classes that are not taught at OJR by taking courses online or on college campus. These courses must be pre-approved by the district if the student wants to earn credit for the course and the student's family is responsible for registration and payment. Grades earned via this option are NOT calculated into the student's GPA.

Hybrid Courses combine in-person, online and out-of-class course work (such as Hybrid Honors Ecology), and meet one day per cycle, for 3 to 4 hours of work per cycle. In addition, these courses provide one day per month of field-based labs (such as AP Environmental Science) and allows room in student schedules for other courses or study halls.

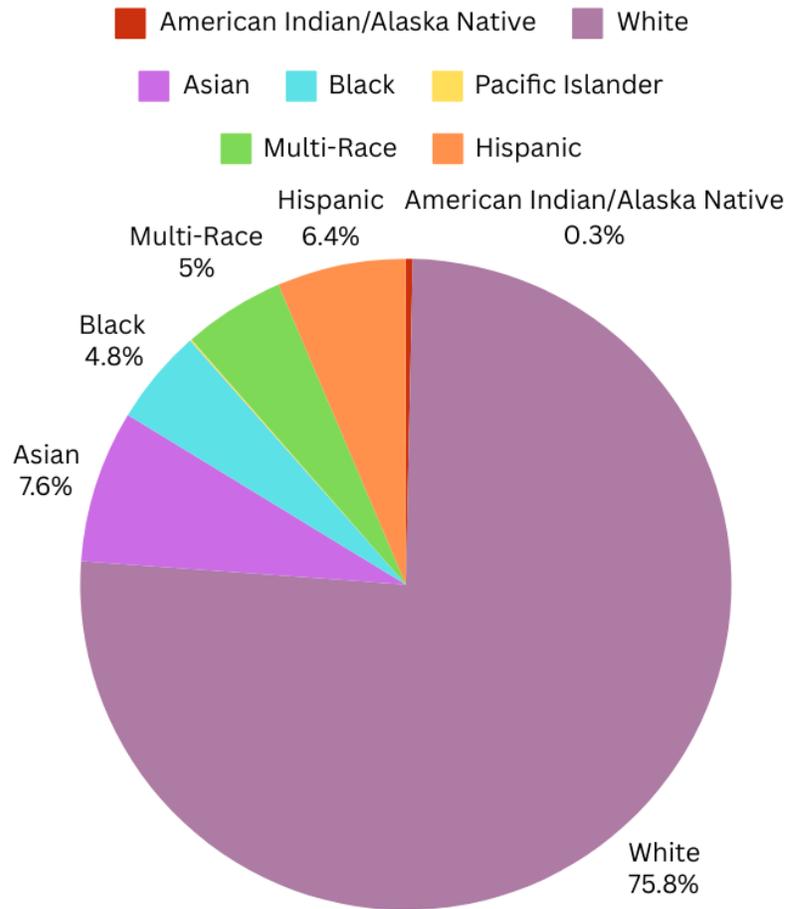
Cyber and Online Courses allow for asynchronous learning with pacing suggestions through both the Owen J. Roberts School District and Brandywine Virtual Academy. Courses taught at Brandywine Virtual Academy count towards credit and a student's GPA, are not taught by OJR staff members, and provide flexible scheduling such as late arrivals and early departures. Courses taught through OJR are taught by district staff members, provided through the Canvas platform, count towards credit and the student's GPA, and provide flexible scheduling such as late arrivals and early departures.

Students take classes over the summer enjoy the benefit of opening up room in their schedule for other courses during the school year. Summer classes are provided over a 5-to-6-week time period, depending on holidays. These courses may be asynchronous online or in-person learning, depending on course. Students earn credit for passing the course, after completion of 9th, 10th, or 11th grade, and advance to next level. However, the course is not calculated into a student's GPA.

# District Enrollment Projections

| Grade           | 2024         | 2025         | 2026         | 2027        | 2028        | 2029        | 2030         | 2031         | 2032         | 2033         | 2034         |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| K               | 318          | 330          | 341          | 352         | 356         | 354         | 354          | 350          | 347          | 344          | 340          |
| 1               | 364          | 366          | 369          | 374         | 380         | 383         | 377          | 371          | 364          | 357          | 351          |
| 2               | 372          | 379          | 382          | 386         | 390         | 388         | 390          | 382          | 375          | 369          | 362          |
| 3               | 395          | 381          | 389          | 395         | 397         | 397         | 393          | 394          | 385          | 378          | 371          |
| 4               | 392          | 406          | 395          | 403         | 409         | 404         | 403          | 398          | 397          | 390          | 380          |
| 5               | 407          | 395          | 411          | 400         | 408         | 412         | 406          | 403          | 399          | 397          | 389          |
| 6               | 390          | 410          | 402          | 419         | 405         | 412         | 414          | 408          | 404          | 397          | 397          |
| 7               | 446          | 399          | 418          | 411         | 428         | 412         | 418          | 421          | 411          | 408          | 402          |
| 8               | 409          | 448          | 403          | 425         | 417         | 431         | 413          | 419          | 421          | 411          | 407          |
| 9               | 443          | 406          | 448          | 404         | 426         | 416         | 428          | 409          | 414          | 416          | 406          |
| 10              | 463          | 441          | 408          | 450         | 406         | 428         | 416          | 428          | 407          | 412          | 414          |
| 11              | 449          | 449          | 431          | 400         | 440         | 403         | 423          | 411          | 420          | 400          | 405          |
| 12              | 470          | 465          | 466          | 446         | 415         | 448         | 409          | 430          | 417          | 427          | 405          |
| <b>Pct Chg:</b> | <b>-1.6%</b> | <b>-0.8%</b> | <b>-0.2%</b> | <b>0%</b>   | <b>0.2%</b> | <b>0.2%</b> | <b>-0.8%</b> | <b>-0.4%</b> | <b>-1.2%</b> | <b>-1.1%</b> | <b>-1.5%</b> |
| <b>Totals:</b>  | <b>5318</b>  | <b>5275</b>  | <b>5263</b>  | <b>5265</b> | <b>5277</b> | <b>5288</b> | <b>5244</b>  | <b>5224</b>  | <b>5161</b>  | <b>5106</b>  | <b>5029</b>  |

# 2023-24 Student Demographics



Note: Student demographics descriptors as defined by *No Child Left Behind* and reported to the Pennsylvania Department of Education

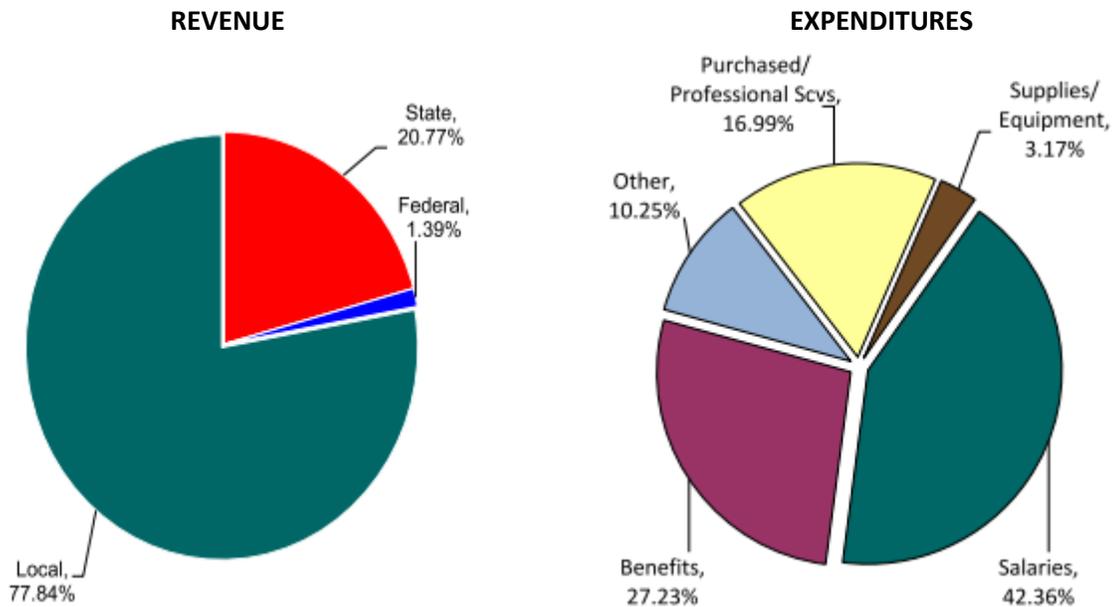
# 2023-24 Budget

The Owen J. Roberts Board of School Directors approved a 2023-24 Budget of \$125,028,974 at its public business meeting on May 22, 2023. The spending plan included a millage rate of 34.5237 which equates to a real estate tax increase of 1.75% well below the State Act 1 Index of 4.10%. The increase represents an additional \$110 per year on the average assessed property value of \$185,418. On May 1, 2023 the Commonwealth's Budget Secretary certified that the district was allocated \$1,876,279 in Pennsylvania State Gaming Funds that was distributed during the 2023-24 fiscal year. The current years' allocation plus \$3,486 in leftover prior years' funding will allow the district a total of \$1,879,762 to reduce taxpayers' burden. Each homestead/farmstead owner received a maximum of \$203.08 through a tax credit applied as a reduction to their property tax bill.

The district is committed to maintaining our high level of educational programming and student services. Other factors contributing to the increase are costs related to charter school tuition, special education services, staff salaries and healthcare, and state required retirement funding. Overall costs are minimized by aggressively controlling costs in other areas, such reducing the facilities maintenance budget over the long-term with programs such as guaranteed energy savings projects and initiatives.

OJR receives the majority of its revenue from local property taxes, approximately \$83.9 million or 67%. Unfortunately, the District's Commercial tax base is extremely small relative to other schools in Chester County and represents only 9% of assessed property value. Therefore, residential homes primarily support school district operations and represents 84% of assessed property values. The district also receives \$9 Million from Local Earned Income Taxes (EIT). The remaining \$4.5 Million of local revenue consists of interest income, other local taxes, donations, revenue from pass through agencies, and other community services.

The district expects to receive \$26 Million, 20.77% of its budget, from the State and \$1.7 Million, 1.39% of its budget, from the federal government.



# District Budget Allocations

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| Salaries   | \$ 51.5 Million        |
| Benefits   | \$ 33.4 Million        |
| Other Student Support Services, Tuition for Special Education & Occupational Education | \$ 16.0 Million        |
| Transfers to other funds including Debt Services & Capital                             | \$ 10.6 Million        |
| Transportation, Building/Plant, & Security Services                                    | \$ 9.1 Million         |
| Other District Programs  | \$ 1.2 Million         |
| Administrative Support   | \$ 3.2 Million         |
| <b>Total Budget</b>  | <b>\$125.0 Million</b> |

## Cost Per Pupil\*

The cost per pupil in any school district can be reported in three ways. Below are the unaudited numbers for the Owen J. Roberts School District for 2022-23.

**Instructional Cost per Pupil** **\$13,233**

Includes the cost to deliver regular instruction, special education, vocational education, and other educational program.

**Instructional Support Cost per Pupil** **\$9,912**

Includes support services, such as guidance, library, health, technology, facility maintenance, transportation, staff development, curriculum development, business services, debt services, athletics and activities, etc.

**Total Cost per Pupil** **\$23,145**

Includes both instructional and other costs.

\*Includes all students (Intermediate Unit, Vocational, etc.) as of September 30, 2023

The Annual Budget Document and the year-end Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) are the primary vehicles to present the district's financial plan and results of operation to the community. The district was awarded the Meritorious Budget Award in each fiscal year since inception of the program in 1996 from the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO). The district was the first school entity in the nation to receive the Meritorious Budget Award. Prior to the ASBO award program, the district received the Distinguished Budget Award from GFOA for fiscal years 1993, 1994, and 1995. Additionally, ASBO has awarded the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting and GFOA has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the District for its CAFR for the last thirty-two consecutive fiscal years.



## **Energy & Sustainability**

Going **Green@OJR** is more about everyday living and the environmental commitment to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. There are educational components in place in our curricula to learn about the significance of pollution, climate change, conservation efforts, acid rain, destruction of tropical forests and other natural habitats, the reduction and elimination of thousands of species of animals and plants; however, the bigger parts of these discussions get students thinking and talking about how we are living every day.

OJR students and district personnel have exercised their natural inquisitiveness to work collaboratively, think outside the box, and create new connections for green practices! These “Three Rs” for Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling are evolving into a much broader significance to include Repairing and Rethinking. The OJR community is exercising many initiatives to instill in all stakeholders the desire to be better stewards of the earth. Some of these initiatives also come with cost savings practices which include going digital, lessening the use of paper/paper products, buying bulk, using natural light, making devices, powering down equipment, and sharing best practices for life at school and at home.

An estimated 30% of the energy needs on Owen J. Roberts’ main campus are being generated with solar. Remember to visit the District website for info-graphics representing the estimated environmental impact of the solar project and to view a real-time look at sustainable energy project progress at the [OJR High School](#) and at [OJR Middle School](#).

**Congratulations to all of our hard-working students and District personnel for exercising green practices at OJR!**

## **Commitment to Safe Schools**

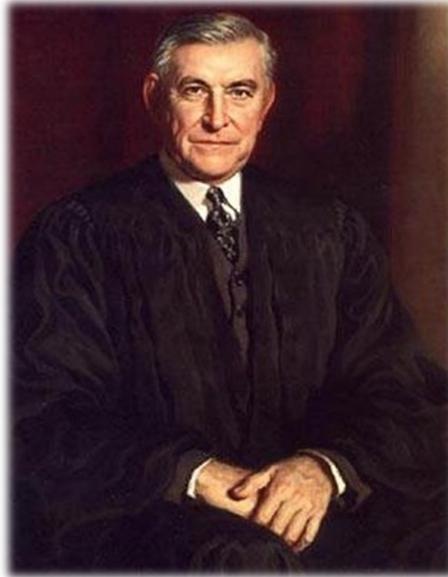
The Owen J. Roberts School District continues to strive to be among the leaders in school safety and security practices. Here at Owen J. Roberts, we maintain a robust team of police and security officers who patrol the schools and grounds. Additionally, we ensure we conduct regular safety drills and operate an extensive network of video surveillance and other electronic security devices. We also have a close working relationship with our local and regional emergency services personnel who interact with district security personnel through meetings, trainings and general information sharing.

As part of our efforts to remain among the best in security and safety, we have undertaken a number of steps to improve the scheduling, training and equipping of our personnel. These changes have allowed us to increase not only the visibility and presence of our officers, but have also better prepared them to handle a variety of issues that they may encounter.

We continue to ensure compliance with all State regulations and requirements, specifically those under Act 44 of 2018 and we maintain the successful implementation and operation of the Safe2Say Something program. In 2019, a district-wide safety and security assessment was conducted by a certified Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Team at no cost to the district. The Security Department worked with the team to address any areas of immediate concern and continues to work with administrators and other departments to address areas of weakness or vulnerability identified during the assessment.

Moving forward, the Owen J. Roberts Security Department will continue to seek out opportunities to learn and share ideas with experts in our field as well as our regional counterparts. These ideas and success stories will be used to continue to enhance our own practices. We are working to improve our staff and student training to ensure all our community members are prepared for an emergency and we are seeking out funding to help acquire the latest technology enhancements available today.





## Owen Josephus Roberts

Owen Josephus Roberts was born May 2, 1875, in Germantown, Pennsylvania. After graduating as valedictorian of the University of Pennsylvania Class of 1895, he continued his education at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. In addition to a successful law career in corporate and estate law, Justice Roberts served from 1898 to 1917 as instructor, assistant professor, and professor at the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

In May 1930, Justice Roberts was appointed to the United States Supreme Court, where he served with distinction until 1945. He was best known for his position as the swing justice between the conservatives and the liberals on the Court, and thus often determined the majority opinion.

Justice Roberts' connection to northern Chester County began in 1929 with the purchase of "Bryncoed", a 700-acre farm in the Birchrunville area. He and his family spent considerable time at their farm and were very involved in the community, which is now the Owen J. Roberts School District. Throughout his life, Justice Roberts volunteered much of his time to community service, including church activities, scouting, and serving on a number of boards including those of Girard College and Lincoln University. Justice Roberts died May 17, 1955 at the age of 80 and is buried at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Ludwig's Corner.



*In the realm of religious faith, and in that of political belief, sharp differences arise. In both fields, the tenets of one man may seem the rankest error to his neighbor. To persuade others to his own point of view, the pleader, as we know, at times, resorts to exaggeration, to vilification of men who have been, or are, prominent in church or state, and even to false statement. But people of this nation have ordained in the light of history, that, in spite of the probability of excesses and abuses, these liberties are, in the long view, essential to enlightened opinion and right conduct on the part of the citizens of a democracy. Justice Owen J. Roberts, writing for the Supreme Court of the United States in *Cantwell v. Connecticut*, 310 U.S. 296,310 (1940)*



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