

## School Performance Profile (SPP)

### DPS – Here's A Bit of the "Rest of the Story"

For district information regarding the School Performance please see the Donegal School District website.

As you review the SPP for Donegal Primary School there are a couple of items to keep in mind. The first of which pertains to the PSSA testing data found on the SPP. At Donegal Primary School we do not have any students who are in tested grades or subjects. The state of Pennsylvania considers us a feeder school because all of our students feed into Donegal Intermediate School. Because of this the testing scores reflected on the SPP are actually the scores of Donegal Intermediate School students.

A second item to keep in mind is that the SPP does not provide the entire picture of life of Donegal Primary School. The numeric nature of the SPP does allow for the inclusion of the many structures, events and programs we put in place to help our students succeed. Those structures, events and programs include, but are not limited to the following:

- DPS Connection to the CTC: High school students who are enrolled in our Mount Joy CTC Early Childhood program work with teachers and students. During the 12-13 school year, 22 CTC students received training from DPS teachers. The training focused on numeracy activities, reading strategies and writing strategies. Following the training the CTC worked alongside classroom teachers to provide assistance to the DPS students. In this 13-14 school year, the fifth year of the partnership, DPS will host over 40 CTC students.
- Ready Freddy: Over the past few years Donegal has partnered with local pre-schools to develop a Kindergarten Transition Team. The goal is to help parents and students to have a smooth transition into the Kindergarten year. This past year we participated in a program, sponsored by United Way and the Success by Six Foundation, entitled Ready Freddy.

Freddy is a frog who is getting ready to begin Kindergarten. During six evening sessions, incoming Kindergarteners and their parents followed Freddy on an adventure. Each evening session consisted of a parent and child activity to boost communication and model skills that can be practiced at home. Donegal Kindergarten teachers then met with the parents to discuss Kindergarten topics and to give parents a chance to connect with each other.

While the parents met with the Kindergarten teachers the students participated in centers run by local pre-school teachers. The centers were designed as a way for students to practice school behaviors and academic skills.

Parent feedback was very positive and the students appeared more comfortable as they entered their first day of school. The collaborative efforts between the Donegal Primary School Teachers, Maytown Community Nursery School and Little People's Nursery School made a big difference for our Kindergarten Students.

- Response to Instruction and Intervention (RtII): At Donegal Primary school we use the framework to identify students' needs and address those needs. All students are screened in math and reading three times a school year. From the screening results we determine

which students require additional supports beyond just regular classroom instruction. Those added supports are considered tier 2 interventions.

Students who receive tier 2 interventions are monitored closely to make sure they are growing academically. If they are not demonstrating appropriate growth they begin receiving tier 3 interventions in addition to the tier 2 interventions and regular classroom instruction.

This process helps us to ensure that all students receive the additional help necessary to grow as learners.

- School Wide Positive Behavior Support (SWPBS): SWPBS is a nationally recognized framework for establishing appropriate behaviors within a school setting. It begins with setting clear expectations through the use of a matrix. Teachers then explicitly instruct students on those behaviors. All the adults in the building become responsible to reinforcing positive behaviors and celebrating those behaviors regularly.

In addition to the positive reinforcement, DPS has a system to address students who misbehave. The system includes the use of logical consequences but also includes a reteaching of the expected behaviors.

- Community Connections: DPS has a team of teachers who have worked to reach out to the community. They do so through parent surveys, parent events and community meetings. In addition, the school is developing a parent advisory committee to provide feedback on the operations of the school.