

2015-16 School Performance Profile [SPP] Scores

Annual school report cards (SPP Scores) issued last week provide a glimpse of how schools in Lower Bucks County and throughout the state performed during the 2015-16 school year. On Thursday, October 13, 2016 the Pennsylvania Department of Education released its annual School Performance Profile scores that assess the performance of public schools across the state.

Once again, **Bucks County Montessori Charter School** led all 50 of the elementary schools in Lower bucks County with a score of 91.1. The 2nd ranking elementary school was in Council Rock with a score of 87.2, and the closest Pennsbury School received a score of 85.9. **Bucks County Montessori Charter School is also the only elementary school in Lower Bucks County to score in the 90s each year that such scores have been published.** In the past, the state considered a score of 70 or above to be a passing rate. No benchmarks was announced this year. Following is a complete listing from highest to lowest:

1)	Bucks County Montessori CS	(Charter School)	91.1
2)	Hillcrest Elementary	(Council Rock SD)	87.2
3)	Quarry Hill Elementary	(Pennsbury SD)	85.9
4)	Goodnoe Elementary	(Council Rock SD)	85.4
5)	Afton Elementary	(Pennsbury SD)	84.2
6)	School Lane Charter School	(Charter School)	83.9
7)	Davis Elementary	(Centennial SD)	82.5
8)	Wrightstown Elementary	(Council Rock SD)	82.3
9)	Newtown Elementary	(Council Rock SD)	81.1
10)	Lower Southampton Elementary	(Neshaminy SD)	80.4
11)	Sol Feinstein Elementary	(Council Rock SD)	79.9
12)	Pearl S. Buck Elementary	(Neshaminy SD)	79.3
13)	Fallsington Elementary	(Pennsbury SD)	78.9
14)	Oxford Valley Elementary	(Pennsbury SD)	78.6
15)	Manor Elementary	(Pennsbury SD)	78.2
16)	Oliver Heckman Elementary	(Neshaminy SD)	77.3
17)	Holland Elementary	(Council Rock SD)	76.9
18)	Rolling Hills Elementary	(Council Rock SD)	75.9
19)	Maple Shade Elementary	(Bristol Township)	75.5
20)	Edgewood Elementary	(Pennsbury SD)	75.1
21)	Walter Miller Elementary	(Neshaminy SD)	74.9
22)	Walt Disney Elementary	(Pennsbury SD)	74.4
23)	Herbert Hoover Elementary	(Neshaminy SD)	74.2
24)	Joseph Ferderbar Elementary	(Neshaminy SD)	73.9
25)	Maureen M Welch Elementary	(Council Rock SD)	70.0
26)	Albert Schweitzer Elementary	(Neshaminy SD)	69.8
27)	Warren Snyder-Girotti Elementary	(Bristol Boro)	69.7
28)	Cornwells Elementary	(Bensalem Township)	69.4
29)	Richboro Elementary	(Council Rock SD)	69.3
30)	Russell C Struble Elementary	(Bensalem Township)	68.8
31)	Makefield Elementary	(Pennsbury SD)	68.8
32)	Ralph Waldo Emerson Elementary	(Bristol Township)	68.2
33)	Grandview Elementary	(Morrisville SD)	66.7

34)	Penn Valley Elementary	(Pennsbury SD)	67.8
35)	Mary Devine Elementary	(Bristol Township)	66.7
36)	Eleanor Roosevelt Elementary	(Pennsbury SD)	65.7
37)	Abraham Lincoln Elementary	(Bristol Township)	65.6
38)	Churchville Elementary	(Council Rock SD)	65.3
39)	Benjamin Rush Elementary	(Bensalem Township)	64.3
40)	Willow Dale Elementary	(Centennial SD)	63.7
41)	McDonald Elementary	(Centennial SD)	62.6
42)	Valley Elementary	(Bensalem Township)	59.8
43)	Samuel K. Faust Elementary	(Bensalem Township)	59.0
44)	Lafayette Elementary	(Bristol Township)	58.6
45)	Belmont Hills Elementary	(Bensalem Township)	57.9
46)	Center for Student Learning	(Charter School)	57.5
47)	James Buchanan Elementary	(Bristol Township)	57.5
48)	John Fitch Elementary	(Bristol Township)	54.9
49)	George Washington Elementary	(Bristol Township)	53.4
50)	Clara Barton Elementary	(Bristol Township)	49.3

All in all, we are thrilled with our scores. Where in the past schools were just measured through results of PSSA scores and Academic Yearly Progress, which we did achieve every year dating back to the 2004-05 school year, now schools (see above scores) are measured not only through indicators of academic achievement [i.e., PSSA scores], but also through indicators related to academic growth. This new calculation, in short, measures a student's growth across time [unlike the PSSA data that simply compared student performances to a particular group or demographic] and is tied directly to his/her own prior performance. Schools also receive 'extra credit' scoring for advanced achievements, something that our students have traditionally executed at an extremely high rate in past years. This innovative version of measuring schools more closely follows Montessori ideals in its individualized approach and adherence to the processes of learning growths.

The number of Pennsylvania students who scored "proficient" or "advanced" on state standardized tests in 2014-15 and 2015-16 has fallen precipitously compared with previous years. The Pennsylvania Department of Education attributes these declines to the increased rigor of the state standardized tests, which in 2014-15 began to align every question with the Pennsylvania Core Standards, which are similar to the Common Core standards. Although this has had a profound negative effect on scores for many schools throughout the state, it has had little if any impact on **Bucks County Montessori Charter School**, whose students have consistently achieved excellent, top level scores.

As we have done in the past, we will continue to look at the data in a manner that best befits Montessori ideals. We recognize that standardized testing, with all that it befits, good or bad, is part of our culture. Just as we wouldn't hold these tests to our measure of education if our scores were on the low end, we cannot think that we have 'arrived' because they are on the high end. What we will continue to do is stand firm in the fact that we will not 'teach to the test', but rather adhere to our Montessori principles. 'True' assessment, in the Montessori ideal, is more appropriately measured in the ongoing construction of the child's classroom work—occurring via processes of student observation, student self-correction, details in relation to the process of the student work,

mastery of that work, and then culminating in the re-teaching of the work to other learners. Our adhered belief lies in the fact that if we devote ourselves to each student's process of learning [i.e., ongoing construction], we are confident in the fact that the product [i.e., PSSA Score] will take care of itself.

To review the Bucks County Montessori Charter School's individual profile, refer to:

<http://www.mynewsonthego.com/thebcct/EPaper/?id=76b42db0-0407-4446-a384-2dacc5f6b0bb&month=10&day=16&year=2016&ed=&zn=&sec=A&pageid=a9994466-c913-48f2-ac47-e8202f7ef494>