

Good evening! My name is John Kopicki, and it is my honor to serve as the superintendent of the Central Bucks School District.

It is my sincere pleasure to welcome all of you here to Central Bucks South High School this evening. I want to thank Principal Jason Bucher and his entire team for accommodating our Celebration

Our intent here this evening is to celebrate our schools, our students, our teachers, and our entire community.

We begin here this evening with CB South “Southside” a Capella group directed by Mr. Joe Stellino.

Fantastic performance. Another round of applause for our young men and women of CB South!

Thank you. Welcome to the 2020 Celebration of Our Schools. We’re proud to present this unique event, designed to offer our families and wider community an opportunity to come together and learn about the work that our fine teachers, administrators, and supporters are doing, collaboratively – to bring the very best educational programming to the children of the Central Bucks community.

Before we continue, allow me to take just a few moments to call your attention to some of these fine people, many of whom have joined us here tonight. First, I would invite the members of our Board of School Directors to stand and be recognized. Our district is blessed to have these nine leaders Sharon Collopy, John Gamble, Dana Hunter, Jodi Schwartz, Lorraine Sciuto-Ballasy, Karen Smith and Leigh Vlasblom and our vice president Mrs. Tracy Suits and Mrs. Beth Darcy, our president. Each of these individuals volunteered to serve our students. They work tirelessly and with the utmost dedication to put the needs of children first. They hold us accountable and offer their unwavering support to the pursuit of continued excellence.

I invite the members of our administrative team and school principals to stand. These individuals, my colleagues, work hand in hand to maintain and enhance a school district that consistently demonstrates the finest operational and educational excellence possible. Along with our teachers, counselors, and support staff – whom I would invite to stand at this time – they demonstrate a commitment to every child, every day, whatever it takes. These words, brought to us by author Jimmy Casas, whose writing we have read as a team, remind us that every child needs our help to find their own unique path to personal and professional success, and it is our sacred responsibility as educators to do whatever it takes to help put them on a path to set and achieve their goals.

We do not undertake this journey alone. We are joined by a community of supporters who care about your children and about this school district – and many of them are here this evening. If you would, please stand and give a wave.

We thank each of you for all that you do to protect, advocate, and contribute to our success and to our ability to deliver a world class education and support the needs of our students and families.

These words behind me guide us and remind us that we are not just building successful graduates, but responsible and contributing citizens of our communities and the wider world.

As you walked through the gallery showcase this evening, I hope that you had time to observe the connections that these presentations made to our five “pillars of excellence.” These five pillars, each represented in a different color, represent the most essential elements of our school system: our teaching and learning, technology, facilities, community connections, and finances.

As demonstrated during tonight’s event, goals and strategic objectives are set in each of these areas annually. We are also working hard to communicate our progress and achievements to all of you, because it is important to those of us who endeavor to do this work – not only in order to demonstrate accountability to our taxpaying public, but in order to invite you to join us as we celebrate our successes. To that end, we have produced a booklet that outlines this progress, and tells some of these stories of success. We have copies here tonight, and we will have more available in our school buildings for those who are interested in learning more.

This is an important exercise, and it sets a great example for our students. We’re proud of the work that we’re doing, and we know that our engaged and involved families care about the work that we do. What better evidence is there than the fact that you all took time to be here with us tonight!

Our ultimate goal, however, is as you see here. Successful students, who are prepared and excited to take on the next challenge of their lives, whatever that may be.

Just a bit of background, The Central Bucks School District is the third largest school district in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania – serving more than 18,000 students including 23 schools over 122 square miles, with an operating budget of \$348 million dollars, serving children in grades kindergarten through 12.

These are the people who make that service and success possible. More than 3,000 of the finest professionals in the industry walk through our doors each day to help our children. Make no mistake, they are dedicated to your children, and we are incredibly lucky to have them.

Supporting an organization of this caliber takes a great deal of resources and we are fortunate that our community understands the value that a superior educational experience brings. But we do not take that support for granted, and to that end, we have worked together with our board of school

directors to practice sincere fiscal responsibility, and with their leadership, we have managed to pass six of the last seven budgets without a need to raise taxes.

That support has enabled us to offer our students opportunities both in and out of the classroom, with hundreds of curricular and extra-curricular offerings – helping every student embrace their passion and plan for their future path.

With a focus on depth over breadth, and an educational program that is aligned to the standards has contributed to our students' demonstrated success on various statewide assessments. Our results are among the best in Pennsylvania.

Our Keystone test results are among the finest of the 13 public school districts in Bucks County and among all participating school districts in the state of Pennsylvania.

Their hard work, and the unwavering support of all of you – their amazing parents, families, and teachers – helps them to reach their goal of becoming a high school graduate.

As they prepare for the next step in their lives, our brilliant students demonstrate themselves to be among the brightest in the state and the nation – and these SAT and ACT scores, presented compared with other schools in the Commonwealth and the country, provide another piece of evidence to prove it.

The young men and women of this community are certainly leaders. In addition to joining the armed forces, the world of work, and other vocational training, many of them matriculate at some of the nation's finest institutions and most selective institutions of higher learning. Also listed here are the top ten colleges and universities the Central Bucks High School east, south, and west classes of 2019 attended, in descending order.

Recently, we took some time to sit down with just a few members of our faculty, administration, and support staff. These individuals each have a unique and special connection to our school district – a mother who raised her family here, worked here, and whose daughter now teaches in Central Bucks, spouses who work here, teachers who have made their lives here and raised their families here – after graduating from our schools. We took time to talk with a student at each of our high schools, inviting them to all tell us – what is it that makes the Central Bucks School District such a unique and special place? {BEGIN VIDEO}

Whether you are a student, a teacher, a member of our staff, a friend, or any member of our wider community – being a part of Central Bucks means you are a part of something remarkable. I want to take a moment thank the students, teachers, administrators, and others who worked together to make tonight possible. We are all so proud and grateful for the opportunity to be a part of these schools and the amazing communities that make up the Central Bucks School District.

Thank you for being here with us tonight and thank you for sharing your children with us. Before we depart, I would like to invite one final group to take the stage and perform for us as our 2020 celebration ends. Please join me in applause as we welcome the Mr. Neil Delson and the Central Bucks West jazz ensemble to the stage! Thank you!