



Annual Report 2013-2014



Opportunity.
Leadership.
Community.



SERVICES ARE PROVIDED THROUGH THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:

- **The Children's Center of Central PA** – a day preschool located in Hershey, for 3-4 year-old deaf and hard of hearing children.
- **Choices for Children Early Intervention Program** - home-based services provided by certified teachers of the deaf to parents and their deaf or hard of hearing children from birth through age 3 across Pennsylvania.
- **The Outreach Center** – services provided with the goal to educate and serve as a resource for deaf and hard of hearing people of all ages across Pennsylvania.
- **The Scranton School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children** – established in 2009, SSDHHC provides education and extracurricular programs from age 3 through 8th grade for children living in northeastern Pennsylvania.
- **The Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf** – located in the eastern suburbs of Pittsburgh, WPSD offers both day and residential academic and extracurricular programs for deaf and hard of hearing students from age 3 through high school from across the Commonwealth.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CEO, Don Rhoten

The purpose of an annual report is to inform stakeholders of our accomplishments during the past year. It's also a way of recognizing and thanking those who made a financial contribution to our programs. We appreciate their support and work hard to justify their continued confidence in us.

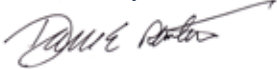
The 2013-14 school year was remarkable in terms the "WPSD Family's" support for the construction of the new Residence. One hundred percent of the WPSD Board made a financial commitment to the project and almost ninety percent of WPSD/SSDHHC staff.

We were also heartened by the generosity of the local community towards the \$9.8 million project. Without your support, exciting projects like this would not be possible.

The year also saw the highest number of students enrolled at the Scranton School since it's inception. Sixty-four students, double the original number, were enrolled in SSDHHC during 2013-14. Obviously, the Northeast Pennsylvania community has embraced The Scranton School and, after five years, has accepted the fact that SSDHHC is here to stay!

I hope you enjoy reading about the accomplishments of our students and, should the opportunity ever arise, please visit our programs at WPSD, Scranton, Hershey preschool or our Camp Hill Office.

Thanks for your interest in our programs!!



Donald E. Rhoten, CEO

Chief Executive Officer

Programs of the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf



Opportunity. Leadership. Community.

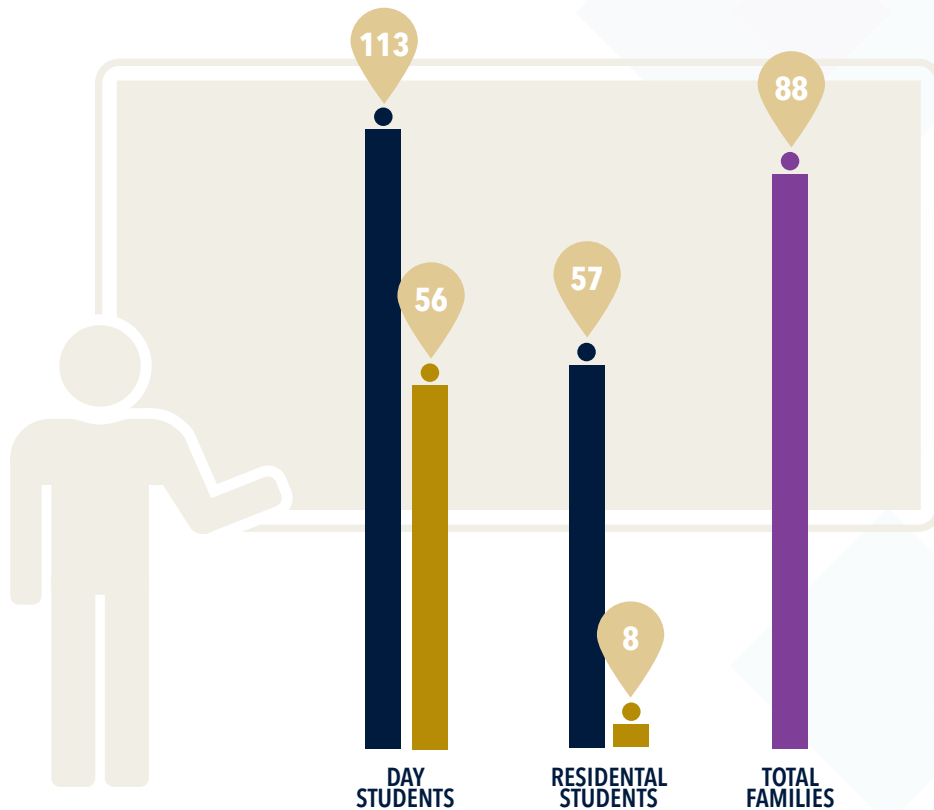


The Programs of the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf are committed to the success of our students through growth and achievement.

- Our curriculum is aligned with national and state education standards. High expectations, accountability and academic excellence are the norm.
- We believe that students need to be challenged and to be given opportunities that stretch their imaginations and take them beyond their textbooks.
- Our students grow and develop socialization and leadership skills outside of the classroom through after-school activities and community engagement.



2013-2014 ENROLLMENT



WPSD

The Scranton School

Choices for Children

More than **30%** of our students have cochlear implants
52% of our students use hearing aids
18% are unaided

OPPORTUNITY THROUGH UNIQUE ALLIANCES

Beginning in the 2013-14 school year, alliances with Carnegie Mellon University, Rochester Institute of Technology, and Community College of Allegheny County provided our students with access to specialized learning and educational programs. Dual-credit coursework exposes them to the rigors of college academic life and allows transferable college credits to be earned for a head start on degree completion.

The STE(A)M - Science, Technology, Engineering, (Art), Math

In partnership with the Carnegie Mellon School of Digital Arts and the TechShop of Pittsburgh, WPSD high school students participated in a 9-week course in digital fabrication. The class was co-taught by Brian Slavinsky, WPSD teacher and Fran Flaherty, a professor at CMU. The students were introduced to 3-D Modeling, Scanning, and Printing and connected to the local digital fabrication community through online contacts and visits to the TechShop of Pittsburgh and the Carnegie Mellon School of Art Digital Arts Studio.

"Working with our students at the Tech Shop and CMU has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career," says WPSD teacher Brian Slavinsky. "You would not believe the collaborative learning that takes place among the class... I have never been so impressed! This environment provides our students with the opportunity to learn from others and to make connections with the wider world."



100% of WPSD high school students enrolled in dual-credit classes achieved college credit.

- College level courses taught in partnership with the Rochester Institute of Technology, is another STE(A)M-related initiative for our high school students. This dual credit program, held on the Pittsburgh campus, provides instruction on the production and manipulation of raster/vector images that are used in Photo Shop and Illustrator programs. Students are exposed to language and concepts at the high-pace of a college class. Skills learned in this class are also used in the CMU/TechShop program.
- Middle School girls participate in "TechNights for Girls", a creative technology outreach program hosted by School of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University. TechNights, a free weekly program, is designed to expose middle school girls to technology and computer science concepts. The WPSD girls are encouraged to become involved in, and learn about, current technologies, so that they might one day design new technologies for Deaf or mainstream populations.
- Through WPSD's relationship with the Community College of Allegheny County, the AP English Language and Composition class at WPSD was involved in "The Big Read in Pittsburgh." The Big Read is a month-long series of outreach events designed to promote literacy, reading and open dialogue within our community. The students read and discussed the book, *The Things They Carried*, by Tim O'Brien, and participated in a writing marathon with students from the CCAC and other local high schools. WPSD senior, Destiny Slater, won the Art award for her depiction of the Vietnam experience.





SCRANTON SCHOOL CELEBRATES IT'S 5TH ANNIVERSARY

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*100% Increase in Enrollment After
Becoming a Preschool-8th Grade School*

*\$7 Million Purchase and Renovation of
Property, Invested in Northeast Pennsylvania*

*No Public Tax Dollars Were Spent on
the Purchase or the Renovation*

*Named 'School of Excellence' by the National
Association of Special Education Teachers*

On September 7, 2009, The Scranton School for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Children was established. By June of 2014, the enrollment at the Scranton School reached 64 students. A 100% increase from the 32 students who were enrolled in the 2010-11 school year. This large increase is an accomplishment for the school and a reflection of how our staff puts the needs of the students first. It is also a reminder that The Scranton School is an asset to northeast and central Pennsylvania, filling the need for services to deaf and hard of hearing children and their families.

The National Association of Special Education Teachers (NASET) honored The Scranton School as a 'School of Excellence' for the 2013-14 school year. The recognition is given to private special education schools that demonstrate dedication and commitment to the achievement of students.

A New Elementary Applied Studies Program began in January 2014. Since the inception of the School in 2009, a Middle School and a High School Applied Studies Program has been offered. The new elementary program allows The Scranton School to diversify the services offered to families and is evidence of the commitment to the individual needs of deaf and hard of hearing students.



MILESTONES

- July, 2010 Acquisition of New Campus in Abington Township
- August, 2010 Renovation of the Barbara Graham Residence in 28 Days
- July, 2011 Phase I Renovation of New Campus Completed
- August, 2011 School Begins on the New Campus
- August, 2014 Phase 2 Renovation Completed
- June, 2014 Completion of the Fifth School Year

THE NEW RESIDENCE AT WPSD



The Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf embarked on an exciting new project on the Pittsburgh campus that will benefit current and future students - building the new Residence. This \$9.8 million project positions WPSD to meet the evolving needs of its students and their families for many years to come.

The design of the new building was a team effort, with input from students, residential staff and alumni. Pittsburgh-based architectural firm, MacLachlan, Cornelius & Filoni, synthesized the groups' input and their knowledge from previous WPSD design projects into a "purpose built," two-story building design. The new Residence provides a more home-like atmosphere with six living suites, each with its own kitchen, bathroom, and common living and study areas. Features such as a modern information technology network, as well as a geo-thermal heating and cooling system, will establish WPSD as a standard-bearer for student-centered construction and energy-efficient design.

A. Martini & Company, Verona-based contractor, has been the lead on many previous campus renovation projects. The girls' dormitory was modified to house all the residential students during the construction of the new Residence. From their windows the students had a front row seat as the new building took shape through the year. The construction was completed on schedule for the 2014-15 school year.

"Before we found WPSD, Brad was a frustrated 5 year-old. As a hearing family we didn't know how to best provide him with an education. We knew he was a bright little boy, but we didn't have the tools to unlock his potential. WPSD was the answer to our prayers."

*-Linda Yakacki,
Grandmother of 2014 Graduate*

LEADERSHIP THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **WPSD/SSDHHC students** and staff are strongly committed to community engagement. Students become involved with the larger community - giving their time, talents and resources to help each other grow and learn. The WPSD Environmental Science program takes our high school students into the community to work with Nine Mile Run Water Shed and the Pittsburgh Park Conservancy as "Eco-Stewards of the Environment."
- **Scranton School students** delivered Thanksgiving dinners to say "thank you" to community servants in surrounding boroughs. The students took advantage of the opportunity to learn more about citizenship and what it takes to govern and manage a community.
- Pittsburgh's renowned "**Attack Theatre**" joined the WPSD drama program with a residency in creative movement and kinesthetic learning in the classroom.
- **The Girls Athletic Association** championed Cancer Awareness and Research through fundraisers and assembling and delivering "Chemo Bags" for patients undergoing treatment in local hospitals.
- **The Middle School Career Mentor Program** introduces students to Scranton community members from a wide variety of rewarding important careers, including a computer scientist, professional photographer and a ballet theatre company owner.
- **Students on both campuses** participate in collection programs for local food banks and animal shelters. These programs teach the students compassion for the less fortunate in our community.



SERVICES EXPANDED FOR PARENTS OF DEAF & HARD OF HEARING TODDLERS

The Choices for Children Early Intervention Program continues its mission to offer educational resources and support to parents and deaf and hard of hearing infants and toddlers. The latest addition to the program is the "Discovery Days Parent & Toddler Group" focused on listening, language, learning and fun. Discovery Days is offered at both the Pittsburgh campus and the Camp Hill Outreach Center, providing parents/guardians with the opportunity to participate in learning activities with their children, age 12-25 months, who have hearing loss.



TAKING OUR PROGRAMS INTO THE COMMUNITY

The Outreach Department continues to serve the community by hosting educational workshops, conducting on-site hearing screenings at businesses and community events, and delivering professional and family support services throughout Pennsylvania.

In the fall of 2013, a partnership was formed with the Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, an office within the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry, to promote a series of workshops in four locations across the state. Outreach services were also expanded to include the northwestern region with three workshops for parents and professionals hosted at the Barber Institute in Erie. Programs were hosted throughout the year in Hershey, Pittsburgh, Williamsport, Scranton and Camp Hill.



FINANCIALS

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Instructional	\$8,104,000
Food Service	\$415,000
Allocation of Overhead	\$3,966,000
Supplies and other expense	\$888,000
Depreciation	\$815,000
Residential Expense	\$1,345,000
Total Expense	\$15,533,000

THE SCRANTON SCHOOL

Instructional	\$2,087,400
Food Service	\$246,000
Allocation of Overhead	\$901,000
Supplies and other expense	\$524,600
Depreciation	\$470,000
Residential Expense	\$275,000
Total Expense	\$4,504,000

OUTREACH

Instructional	\$193,000
Food Service	\$1
Allocation of Overhead	\$40,000
Supplies and other expense	\$95,999
Depreciation	\$21,000
Travel	\$14,000

Total Expense **\$364,000**

PARENT/INFANT PROGRAM

Instructional	\$321,000
Allocation of Overhead	\$7,500
Supplies and other expense	\$99,700
Depreciation	\$1,800
Travel	\$37,000

Total Expense **\$467,000**

DONORS DURING THE 2013-2014 FISCAL YEAR

The success of the Programs of the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf is due in large part to the support of the individuals, organizations and foundations that believe in our mission and goals. We would like to take this opportunity to recognize them for their continued generosity.

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