



## Downingtown Area School District

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### A Busy Time of Year

I've been asked once or twice about a Superintendent's busiest time of the year. My family will tell you that it's probably spring. There are so many wonderful activities going on this time of year that I should put a cot in my office so I don't miss one of them.

This week for example, I attended the Downingtown Middle School's spring band concert. It was also the final time that Judy Houdeshel, a 36 year veteran music teacher of our district, was to conduct her students. For those of you who attended, you will no doubt agree that those students played their absolute best that evening in honor of this wonderful teacher.

On Wednesday night, the School Board honored Judy and all our other retiring personnel. As mentioned in a story about our retirees in a previous DLink, we are losing combined total of 720 years of experience with this group of retirees. In leaving us to enjoy the next part of their lives, we want them all to know that the work, guidance, knowledge and support you shared with your students will long be remembered. As historian Henry Adams once wrote, "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops."

On Thursday night I spoke at the Downingtown Middle School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony where they inducted 96 students into this prestigious national scholarship organization. The National Junior Honor Society is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding middle level students. More than just an honor roll, NJHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship and character. These characteristics have been associated with membership in the organization since its beginning in 1929.

Tonight, I will attend both the West Choral Concert and DHS West's Living Arts. The title of this year's art event is **We Have HeART** and wow – do they ever. Living Arts presents the final culmination of student AP Studio Art and advanced ceramics in addition to work coming out of the school's Art, Technology and Family and Consumer Science departments along with music performed by our talented students.

It's a busy, fun, rewarding, and (did I mention busy) time of year. The best time for folks like us who love to see the end product on full display after eight months of learning.