



## **BETHEL PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT**

### **Facts and Figures**

#### **2009-2010**

#### **ABOUT BETHEL PARK**

Bethel Park is a safe community, rich in history with a strong sense of family. Centrally located in the South Hills but only minutes from downtown Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh International Airport, Bethel Park features a cozy, green suburban environment with affordable and diverse housing options, numerous parks, places of worship and a strong business district, all within 12 square miles.

The nearly 32,000 residents find everything they need within minutes of their doorsteps. The community features close to 14,000 homes, designed in numerous architectural styles situated in an environment of tree-lined streets and rolling hills.

One of the area's strengths is its diversity of age groups, economic backgrounds and fields of employment. The primary age group in Bethel Park falls in the range of 25-44 years of age with the bulk of residents having a household income of \$50,000 and over. Most Bethel Park residents work in the management field or hold other professional positions.

Many people move to Bethel Park because they tend to get "more home for the dollar." In fact, half acre and even larger lots are not uncommon in Bethel Park, with most featuring mature landscaping, offering both beauty and privacy. The resale of homes remains high, but most residents stay in Bethel Park once they move here. More than 7,000 homeowners have lived in the community more than 15 years, with the majority of this group residing in Bethel Park for 20 years or more.

Bethel Park can boast of a strong recreation program for residents of all ages, a thriving Community Center, 10 neighborhood parks, one of the largest libraries in Western Pennsylvania, excellent access to public transportation and its own community television station.

For more information about the community, visit [www.bethelpark.net](http://www.bethelpark.net).

#### **THE BETHEL PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The award-winning Bethel Park School District contains eight schools--five elementary, two middle and one senior high school. The elementary schools are organized by neighborhood. Total district enrollment is 4,738.

Bethel Park students annually exceed the state and national averages on the ACT and SAT tests and the state averages on the PSSA Tests.

The district has a solid reputation for providing quality instruction and exposing students to a variety of academic subjects, enhanced by a strong technology program, that includes computers and Internet access in all classrooms.

At the high school, Advanced Placement courses are offered in American and European history, English literature and language, biology, chemistry, physics, calculus, calculus BC, micro and macro economics, Java, Spanish, French, German and Latin. Twenty-six Honors courses are offered as well.

Bethel Park High School also offers two classes that earn college credits at the University of Pittsburgh and one class that earns credit at California University of Pennsylvania. BPHS also have the opportunity to take certain classes at Penn State's Greater Allegheny Campus.

Extra curricular opportunities are plentiful and increase with each grade level. In addition to athletics (27 varsity, 17 junior varsity, 9 freshman, 14 middle school teams and 4 club sports), there are more than 12 clubs and activities available to students at the middle schools and over 20 at the high school. The high school produces a fall play and spring musical, in which more than 150 students participate.

The United States Department of Education awarded a National Blue Ribbon for Excellence in Education to Independence Middle School in 1992-93 and 1997-98, which places the school among the top one percent of schools in the nation.

Parent involvement at all schools is high, with active PTA, PTO and PTSO groups functioning in all of the schools and meeting monthly as a Council to discuss district-wide issues and share information. Sports and Club Booster Groups actively promote the district's teams and organizations. Community involvement is encouraged with residents given the opportunity to participate on a variety of committees, including the Budget Advisory Committee and the Citizens Curriculum Committee, to name two.

*The Pittsburgh Business Times* ranked the Bethel Park School District #14 among the 105 school districts in Western Pennsylvania, based solely on the Pennsylvania State System of Assessment (PSSA) Test Scores for the years 2006-2008.

Bethel Park High School was ranked #14 of 123 high schools; Independence Middle School was ranked #16 of 141 schools and Neil Armstrong Middle School was #45 of 291. Among the 498 school districts ranked in Pennsylvania, Bethel Park was #42.

## **ENROLLMENT**

### **ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (Grades K-4)**

Benjamin Franklin .....	420
Abraham Lincoln .....	339
Bethel Memorial .....	329
William Penn .....	185
George Washington .....	302
<b>Elementary Total .....</b>	<b>1,575</b>

**MIDDLE SCHOOLS**

Neil Armstrong (5-6) .....	681
Independence (7-8) .....	762
<b>Middle School Total</b> .....	<b>1,443</b>

**SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL** (*Grades 9-12*)

Bethel Park High School.....	1,720
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**TOTAL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT:** .....4,738

**CLASS OF 2009—the 100<sup>th</sup> graduating class of Bethel Park**

- **422 students graduated June 6, 2009**
- 99.5% planned to continue their education (81%/four-year college; 13%/community college; 5.5%/business/technical school)
- 42% graduated with honors (QPA 3.5 or higher)
- 2 National Merit Finalists and 6 National Merit Commended Students
- 128 received scholarships totaling \$5.5 million.

**SAT SCORES**

Over the past two years, the Bethel Park SAT scores have been:

	<b>Verbal</b>	<b>Math</b>	<b>Writing</b>
<b>2009</b> (1577).....	532	526	506
<b>2008</b> (1577).....	532	544	511

Bethel Park scores continue to exceed State and National averages. The 2009 Pennsylvania average on this test was 1477 (493 verbal/501 math/483 writing) and the National average was 1509 (501 verbal/515 math/493 writing).

**EMPLOYEE STATISTICS**

<b>Total staff:</b> .....	716
Administrators/Principals .....	28
Professional teaching staff .....	387
<i>(includes teachers, nurses, counselors and psychologists)</i>	
Classified staff .....	301
<i>(includes aides, paraprofessionals, secretarial, clerical, custodian/maintenance, bus drivers)</i>	

**BUDGET:**

**2009-2010:** \$70,069,162

**Millage:** 23.73

**One mill generates:** \$1.8 million



*For more information, contact us at [www.bpsd.org](http://www.bpsd.org). ....*