



P5/ DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Meet three CV graduates who personify Character, Community and Commitment — this year's class of Distinguished Alumni.



P6/ CLASS OF 2017

CVHS celebrates its 59th Commencement, reflects on the values of CV and pays tribute to retiring CV Superintendent Dr. Gerald G. Huesken.



P8/ TAX REBATES

If you are 65 years old, widowed or disabled, you may qualify for a tax rebate from the state. Look inside to see how much you could receive.



P9/ MEET DR. Z

Conestoga Valley's next superintendent, Dr. David Zuilkoski, introduces himself to the CV community.

CV Buckskin News



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BUDGET 2017-2018 CVSD tackles budget challenges, future growth

Conestoga Valley, like other districts in Pennsylvania, continues to deal with a difficult financial situation caused by unfunded mandates from the state, rising pension and special education costs, and minimal tax base growth. The district continued to work through a difficult budgetary process again this year to keep tax increases within the Act 1 Index for the 2017-2018 school year.

The \$68.4 million budget calls

for a tax increase of 2.5 percent. Though the district could have used two special exceptions to push the tax increase up to 4.11 percent, the board asked administration to share with them the kinds of reductions it would take to reach the 2.5 percent tax increase within the Act 1 Index. These scenarios include deferring maintenance projects that were not high priority, limiting technology purchases to replacement equipment, not replacing some positions

becoming open due to retirement and other reductions to building and department budgets. Even with cutting expenses and the 2.5 percent increase, a portion of the district's fund balance will be needed to meet the district's expense needs.

Although Conestoga Valley has to increase taxes, the millage rate continues to be the third lowest in Lancaster County. With a 2.5 percent millage rate increase, the 2017-2018

>> CONT. PAGE TWO

★ CHARACTER

★ COMMUNITY

★ COMMITMENT

CONESTOGA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

'17-18 BUDGET

>> CONT. FROM PAGE ONE

rate will increase by 0.3981 mills to 16.322 mills. For the average single-family residential residence assessed at \$167,367, this translates into a tax increase of approximately \$67. Residential properties that were approved as homesteads will continue to receive approximately \$98 off of their tax bill.

There are several reasons why the school board feels a tax increase is required. On the revenue side, there has been minimal improvement in assessed property values as a result of assessment appeals and lack of natural market growth. Revenue loss due to appeals cannot be made up.

Another factor is the increasing cost of retirement contributions. The PSERS contribution rate for 2017-2018 school year is increasing to 32.57 percent from 30.03 percent. This is an increase of \$889,500 from the 2016-2017 school year to the 2017-2018 year.

"As participants in the Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS), school districts are required to make contributions to help fund the system. However, these contributions

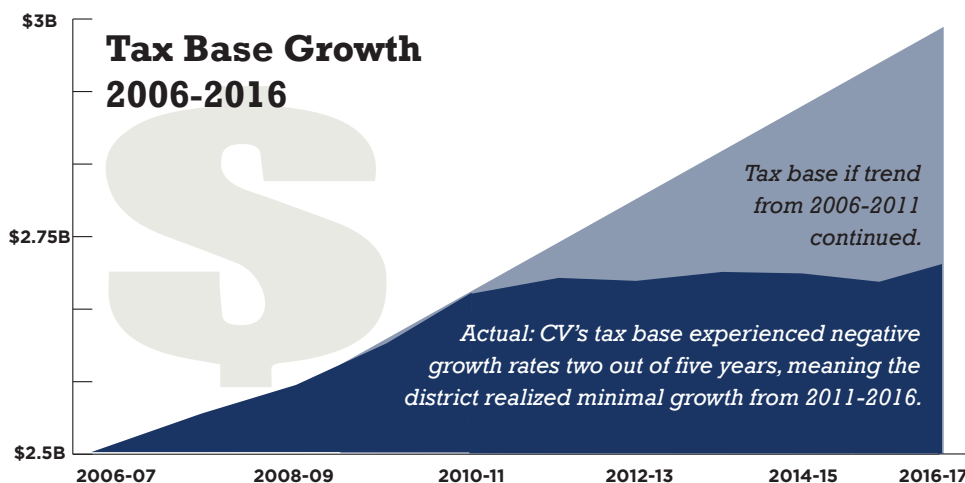
have increased dramatically over the last ten years," said Dr. Gerald G. Huesken, CV superintendent. "If nothing is done at the state level to relieve the pressures of some of these primary cost drivers, then all schools will need to prioritize and begin to reduce programs."

Additionally, special education costs continue to rise. As with most districts across the Commonwealth, the percentage of special education students compared to the total student population is increasing at a substantial pace. For CV, special education costs are expected to increase by \$610,000 from 2016-

2017 to 2017-2018. These costs continue to rise at a higher pace, despite the district taking actions to keep costs in line while ensuring a quality education for students, such as bringing special education classrooms and services back to CV from other providers.

With some moderate enrollment growth projected, the district is also looking to approach this growth proactively. The CV Futures Task Force, a committee with parent, staff and student representation, worked throughout this school year to offer big-picture recommendations to the CV school board for future facilities planning. To prevent a large traumatic tax increase in any one year, the district is not planning to do any major renovations or additions until 2019-2020, when its existing debt drops off.

"With our enrollment projections and renovation needs, we are starting early with our studies, so that we can revise our overall master facilities plan and are ready when the time comes. There are a lot of issues to consider, not just financial matters, but the educational needs of our students," said Dr. Huesken. "The district is in a very good place in preparation for this process."



Buckskin Pride

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Students from Fritz Elementary competed on the international stage at the creative problem-solving Odyssey of the Mind World Finals in May, placing 15th out of 57 teams in their division. The team is CV's first to ever reach the World Finals.

Sarah Nolt and Sophie Welch, CVMS seventh-grade students, were selected to present the Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award to author Jennifer Holm at the annual Pennsylvania School Librarians Association's conference in March.

Fritz fifth-grade student Lars Dunlap was chosen to speak on behalf of the school at the Title I Awards Luncheon at the Pennsylvania Association Federal Program Coordinators Annual Conference, which recognizes distinguished Title I students from the Commonwealth.

The CV Indoor Percussion Ensemble took home the Keystone Indoor Drill Association

Championship title for the fifth year in a row in April.

CVHS student Lindsay Alshouse won this year's Youth Traffic Safety Billboard Contest. Her winning design was featured on a billboard close to the CV community.

A CV student was recently elected to become the next State Reporter of the Pennsylvania Technology Student Association. CVHS sophomore Lyndsey Nedrow won the vote of the student members during the organization's conference in Seven Springs, Pa.

COMMUNITY SERVANTS

On Fridays, several students from CV's Bucks Program delivered meals to roughly 10 to 12 senior citizens living within the district as part of Meals on Wheels. Every other week, students from the CV Middle School would "buddy up" with a high school student to help deliver the meals to seniors.

The CV Tech Team, a group of high school students skilled in computer systems, used their expertise to help local senior citizens and nursing home residents, providing free software and hardware troubleshooting. The group of

TECH TEAM

The CV Tech Team visited residents at Conestoga View to help them solve computer issues.

AMONG AMERICA'S BEST... AGAIN

For the fifth year in a row, CVHS was named one of "America's Best High Schools" by U.S. News & World Report.



SPARE CHANGE DRIVE

Fritz third-grade students raised \$1,103.67 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation as part of the school's spring change drive. This is the largest amount of money they have raised to date as part of this annual fundraiser. The group also raised \$1,095.65 during its fall change drive for Water Street Ministries.

students will continue the program in the 2017-2018 school year.

When CVHS junior Theodora Dillman heard the story of a CV kindergartener who asked his teacher day after day to sit and read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* to him, she came up with a creative idea to partner young learners with older students who could read to them regularly. Her program, *Readers Helping Readers*, officially launched in January 2017.

LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

Conestoga Valley High School's Occupational Spanish class provides an opportunity for students to strengthen their language skills and apply them to situations

>> CONT. PAGE FOUR

MEALS ON WHEELS

Pictured, from left to right, are CVHS students Paola Medina, Hope Lo, Abby Lopez and Nick Rivera.



Buckskin Pride

>> CONT. FROM PAGE THREE

related to the workplace. Students in the class visited four local agencies in March to see first-hand how that works in real-life situations. The students visited Schreiber Pediatric Rehab Center, Tabor Community Services, COBYS Family Services, and the Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences.

For the past 23 years, students on CVMS' 8-Blue Team have participated in a unique program that gives them the chance to live as the American colonists once did. Colony Quest, a historical simulation that divides students into 17 colonies for a year-long project, celebrated its final year this year since its architect, social studies teacher Mark Olcott, retired at the end of the school year.

The Conestoga Valley Virtual Academy held its second free parent seminar in May, inviting expert Walt Mueller to discuss social media and its impact on students.

the high school fire back in December.

CV department supervisor Matt Trout and CVHS health teacher Annette Fecera created the first-ever CV Community Wellness Fair, featuring free fitness classes and a vendor fair, which was attended by more than 115 community members.

ATHLETICS ROUND-UP

Head tennis coach Dale Gregg and the boys' tennis team won the Section 1 Team Sportsmanship Award for the 2017 spring season.

Twenty Conestoga Valley senior student-athletes announced plans to



MOVING FORWARD

Twenty CV student-athletes announced plans to continue playing their sport at an intercollegiate level.

continue their sports playing careers at the intercollegiate level.

The 2016-2017 year saw wrestling coach Trent Turner collect his 200th career victory at CV, while boys' basketball coach Brad Herr earned his 100th career win.



STAFF SAYS THANKS

CVHS staff paid \$5 to dress down one day and raise money for the local fire company.

EXCEPTIONAL EMPLOYEES

CVHS staff members celebrated the end of the semester while raising more than \$530 for the Witmer Fire Company by participating in a Dress Down Day. Staff members wore red to show support for the fire department and thank them for their help with



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CV DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Welcoming the 2016-2017 inductees



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Pictured, from left to right, are Bev Breniser (Distinguished Alumni Committee), Kathy Kaufhold Phillips, (Distinguished Alumna), Kim Seldomridge (Distinguished Alumni Committee), Jonathan Groff (Distinguished Alumnus) and Suzanne Fisher (Distinguished Alumni Committee). Not pictured: Janine Hiller, (Distinguished Alumna)

Three outstanding Conestoga Valley graduates are becoming part of an elite group of "Distinguished Alumni" of the school district.

CV Distinguished Alumni are chosen by a committee of current and retired CV administrators, faculty and staff. This year's inductees have all made significant contributions to their profession, have strong character and serve their communities.

"These three alumni truly exemplify Conestoga Valley's motto: Character, Community, Commitment," said CV Superintendent Gerald Huesken.



JANINE HILLER, '75, is a professor of finance, insurance and business law in the Pamplin College of Business at Virginia Tech. A member

of the faculty since 1981, Hiller has also served as associate dean of the Pamplin College and Fulbright-Lund University Distinguished

Chair of Public International Law at Lund University (Sweden). Hiller was named the Richard E. Sorensen Professor of Finance by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors in 2013, which recognizes teaching and research excellence. She is also active in Vestry Christ Episcopal Church in Blacksburg, Va.



KATHY KAUFHOLD PHILLIPS, '86, is the owner of the successful international company Primitives by Kathy, located in Greenfield Industrial Park. The

company started in 1997, when Phillips began selling hand-crafted items out her garage. Since then, the company has grown tremendously and has its items in more than 10,000 stores internationally. Phillips was recently named one of the top 50 women in business in her sized company. She also has supported several charities, including Water Street Ministries, Girls on the Run and Schreiber Pediatrics.



JONATHAN GROFF, '03, is a Tony Award-nominated actor. Most recently, Groff received his second Tony Award nomination for his

role as King George III in *Hamilton*. His first major role was in the musical *Spring Awakening*, where he earned his first Tony nomination. Since then, he has performed in dozens of TV shows, films and plays, including *Looking*, *Boss*, *Glee*, *American Sniper*, *Hamilton* and *Frozen*. Additionally, Groff supports numerous public charities in the New York area, raises money for several theater companies and has remained connected to CV schools.

CV launched its Distinguished Alumni program during the 2007-2008 school year with the celebration of the school district's 50th anniversary.

Nominate deserving alumni at www.ConestogaValley.org/alumni.

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CV COMMENCEMENT

The Class of 2017 celebrates the past while looking towards the future

Conestoga Valley's 59th Commencement on June 2, 2017 at Calvary Church in Lancaster was a time for CV's roughly 360 graduates to celebrate the past while looking forward to life's next adventure.

Two student speakers spoke about the importance of taking the time to look back at their years at CV while continuing to strive for excellence in the future. During her speech, salutatorian Amelia Blanchard advised classmates not to rush to grow up in her speech, *The Beauty Around Us*.

"That same beauty and wonder that existed in your childhood still will exist as you transition into and live in the real world," she said. "You just have to look for the beauty that is all around you. Life becomes a different type of beautiful now moving forward, a beauty that we may have to look harder to see."

"Take a second to look around. Look around at how lucky we are to be alive right now! How beautiful is this moment: this celebration of the people we have become, and

our growth as human beings?" she told the class. "How special is it to have all of us together one last time? With teachers, friends, family, those people that care most about us. How beautiful is this moment?"

Kalihan Sensenig spoke about accepting life as it happens in her speech entitled *Celebrating the Good and the Bad*.

"That's what life is made up of. The panic moments, the mistakes, the pain and the bad," she said. "But life is also made up of the smile: the triumphs, our best memories and the good. Life can boil down to a pile of good and bad things, and I cannot find any better way to put that into words than high school."

"So, as we leave today graduates – in fact, everyone here – I encourage you to think back on the memories you've made up to this point," Sensenig added. "Allow them to make you cry, and yes, they will make you laugh. But most

importantly, make the choice to let your memories help you grow."

The ceremony was Dr. Gerald G. Huesken's final one as CV superintendent. At the event, he was awarded the Rill Medal of Honor by School Board President Merle Esh. This annual award goes to a staff or community member who has made an outstanding contribution to Conestoga Valley schools. He, in turn, helped present the Medal of Honor to Amelia Blanchard and Hunter Dillman, who each received \$1,000 with the award.

"Having spent 30 years in one place serving a special community and its students has been the privilege of my professional life," said Dr. Huesken in his remarks.

Class President Maggie Wang announced the class gift, which includes a memorial for former CVHS Assistant Principal Perry Pritchard, who passed away unexpectedly in 2015. The

CLASS OF 2017

Pictured, from left to right: School Board President Merle Esh, CV Superintendent Dr. Gerald G. Huesken, and Rill Medal of Honor winners Hunter Dillman and Amelia Blanchard.



CLASS SPEAKERS

Amelia Blanchard (left) and Kalihan Sensenig (right) address the Class of 2017.

The students were chosen as the class speakers by auditioning in front of a panel of teachers and administrators.

memorial includes naming the access road connecting the high school and middle school in Pritchard's honor. Wang also presented Dr. Huesken with a plaque from the Class of 2017 to honor his years of service.

"You have shaped the future of thousands of CV residents, be it the students, family or community members, and have made Conestoga Valley what it is today," Wang said. "We wish you much health and happiness in your well-deserved retirement."

Also during the ceremony, Angela Edgell was named valedictorian. Students from the Class of 2017 announced plans to attend colleges and universities across the state and beyond, including the University of Pennsylvania, Franklin and Marshall, Penn State, Susquehanna, Millersville, Duquesne and Drexel.

Others will attend programs at Thaddeus Stevens College, Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences and York Technical Institute. Eleven CV students plan to enlist in a branch of the U.S. Military, including the National Guard, Marines, Army, Navy and Air Force, after graduation.



CHARACTER ED

Parents and community members asked to remind students of Trait of the Month



Conestoga Valley
CHARACTER EDUCATION
Trait of the Month

Character education is a districtwide emphasis on those values held to be important by the CV community. Each month in the calendar has a Conestoga Valley Character Education Trait as a theme of the month. Parents and local community leaders are encouraged to discuss these traits with students and to use everyday examples to reinforce them.

To make this easier for parents and other community leaders, CV has recently added a new page to its website where those in the community can download a flyer depicting the Character Education Traits of the Month. Visit www.conestogavalley.org/CharacterEd to download a copy today!

Want to help support Conestoga Valley's Character Education Trait of the Month initiative?

- Business owners can post the Character Education Trait of the Month on their business signs.
- Parents can print out the flyer and hang it up to discuss with students at home.
- Parents and community leaders can recognize and reward students who are demonstrating the Trait of the Month with a small prize.
- If your business or organization has a public bulletin board, consider printing out a flyer and posting it.
- Contact the district if you have an idea for promoting Character Education to our students and community!



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Are you eligible for a tax rebate?

HOMEOWNERS

INCOME	REBATE
\$0 - \$8,000	\$650
\$8,001 - \$15,000	\$500
\$15,001 - \$18,000	\$300
\$18,001 - \$35,000	\$250

RENTERS

INCOME	REBATE
\$0 - \$8,000	\$650
\$8,001 - \$15,000	\$500

TAX REBATES

Eligibility requirements

Some residents may receive up to a \$650 reimbursement for property taxes and rent paid in the previous year if they qualify.

To receive the rebate, residents must be either:

- 65 years or older;
- Widowed and 50+ years old; or
- 18 years or older and permanently disabled.

The amount of the rebate is determined by household income up to \$35,000 for district homeowners.

The income limit for renters is \$15,000.

This does not include 50 percent of Social Security payments and Railroad Retirement benefit payments.

If residents are eligible, they should use booklet PA-1000 to apply after Feb. 15.

Claim forms are available at www.revenue.state.pa.us or by calling 1-800-362-2050.

MEET CV'S NEXT SUPERINTENDENT

"Dr. Z" Will Take the Reins on July 1

On July 1, Dr. David Zuilkoski will replace Dr. Gerald G. Huesken, who is retiring after 19 years as Superintendent of Conestoga Valley. Below, Dr. Zuilkoski, or "Dr. Z," introduces himself to the Conestoga Valley community.

Hello CV! I am Dr. Dave Zuilkoski, but you can call me Dr. Z. I am humbled and excited about the opportunity to be your next superintendent! While I will be spending the next few months getting to know everyone, I wanted to take the time to share a little bit about myself.

I am a proud father of three awesome kids. Caitlin is a 24-year-old doctoral student in microbiology at Lehigh University; Michael is a freshman in the physical therapy program at Misericordia University, where he is also a member of the university's swim team; and Haley is currently finishing up fourth grade. My wife, Kathy, is a sculpture and ceramics teacher at West York Area High School. My family and I recently moved to the CV area.

A self-proclaimed military brat, I was born in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as my dad was a naval intelligence officer stationed there. After he completed his six-year commission, we moved to Erie, Pa., where I spent my K-5 years, along with my three younger sisters. Dad then joined

NIS and we spent two years in South Carolina, followed by three years on the southern coast of Spain, before moving to Mechanicsburg, Pa. I earned a criminology degree from IUP, and followed that up with eight years as an officer in the USAF. After that, I went back to school and earned a degree in secondary education, mathematics, from Shippensburg University and was subsequently hired as a high school math teacher at West York Area High School. My resume includes time as a high school assistant principal, middle school assistant principal, middle school principal, assistant superintendent and superintendent. I earned my master's degree in educational administration from Western Maryland College (now McDaniel College) and doctorate in educational administration from Temple University.

I know most of that information is available online, so I also want to share my beliefs. A few highlights: All children can learn and it is our job to find out how to reach every person and move him/her in a positive direction; 'We' are much stronger and smarter than 'me'; Honest and open communication can solve an issue before it becomes a problem; Take care of your people; Knowledge coupled with a positive attitude can lead to great



NEW SUPERINTENDENT

Pictured (from left to right) are School Board President Merle Esh, Dr. David Zuilkoski, and Pennsylvania Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera.

accomplishments; Family first; and We are teaching our students for tomorrow, not for the past.

As someone new to the district, I will ask questions through a different set of eyes; I do not know why "we have always done it that way." So in asking questions, I am not being critical, I am simply asking for understanding. While change is a necessary part of life in order to thrive, change for the sake of change is never good. Stakeholders must understand the "why" behind any action for it to be successful.

I could keep writing, but I would rather meet face-to-face. Hopefully, we can set up some time during the summer, or throughout the school year, to share ideas and get to know each other better. The opportunity to be CV's next superintendent is "awesomesauce" (one of my favorite words)! I look forward to the privilege of serving the students, parents, community, faculty and staff of Conestoga Valley School District.

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FAREWELL RETIREES

The group has a combined 252 years of CV service



DIANNE DIMEGLIO

Art Teacher
Fritz Elementary
22 Years of Service



SUZANNE FISHER

English Teacher
CV Middle School
41 Years of Service



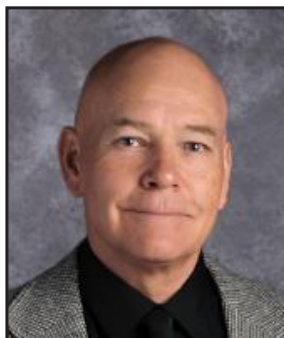
DOREEN HERSHEY

First Grade Teacher
Fritz Elementary
27 Years of Service



DR. GERALD G. HUESKEN

Superintendent of Schools
Conestoga Valley SD
30 Years of Service



DR. DAVID MARTIN

Guidance Counselor
CV Middle School
24 Years of Service



DIANE MUMMERT

Assistant Principal
CV Middle School
21 Years of Service



MARK OLCOTT

Social Studies Teacher
CV Middle School
27 Years of Service



JUNE SHULENBERGER

Family & Consumer Science
CV Middle School
36 Years of Service



ANNAMARIE STERN

Science Teacher
CV Middle School
24 Years of Service

IMPORTANT ANNUAL NOTIFICATIONS TO OUR PARENTS AND RESIDENTS

Conestoga Valley School District is required by state and federal law to make a series of disclosures annually to residents, students or their parents/guardians. These notifications are made annually available on the district's website.

These disclosures cover:

- ★ Early Intervention
- ★ Screening Activities
- ★ Evaluation Process
- ★ Independent Educational Evaluation
- ★ Gifted Education
- ★ Protected Handicapped Students
- ★ Rights Under FERPA
- ★ Rights under PPRA
- ★ Directory Information
- ★ Pest Management Plan
- ★ Asbestos Management Plan
- ★ Non-Discrimination Statement
- ★ McKinney-Vento Act Notification

A full explanation is available on the CVSD website at:

www.ConestogaValley.org/Disclosures



CV VIRTUAL ACADEMY

The CV Virtual Academy is now accepting applications for the fall.

Conestoga Valley's Virtual Academy is a premier provider of local K-12 cyber education. The CVVA combines advanced technology with a local touch: face-to-face meetings with Conestoga Valley teachers, software and hardware support and access to CV's award-winning arts programs, extracurricular activities and Buckskin athletics.

Learn more at:

www.ConestogaValley.org/CVVA

NEW IMMUNIZATION LAW

The PA Department of Health made changes to the school immunization regulations that are in place for the 2017-2018 school year.

A full explanation is available at: www.ConestogaValley.org/Vaccine

CV SCHOOL TAX BILLS FOR 2017-2018

CVSD has partnered with the Lancaster County Tax Collection Bureau (LCTCB) for the collection of the 2017-2018 school real estate taxes. All school real estate tax payments are to be mailed to LCTCB in the envelope provided or paid at any Fulton Bank branch. You may also pay in person at the LCTCB real estate tax office, 1845 William Penn Way, Lancaster, Pa. Please note that school real estate tax payments will no longer be accepted at the CV District Office.

The real estate tax bills will be mailed the 1st week in July. No Per Capita tax bills will be generated this year.

If a district resident does not receive a school real estate tax bill and should have, please contact the LCTCB office after July 1st at 717-569-4521, option #4. Failure to receive the notice does not relieve any taxpayer from making payment.

Real estate tax bills will be mailed to individual property owners. LCTCB does not forward school property tax bills to mortgage companies or tax escrow agencies.

Any questions pertaining to the payment of your 2017-2018 school real estate tax bill should be directed to LCTCB. Any questions pertaining to the assessed value of your property or any changes to the mailing address of your school real estate tax bill should be directed to the Lancaster County Assessment Office at 717-299-8381.



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CV CARES

If you come in contact with a CV employee with superb customer service skills, you are encouraged to fill out a CV CARES Customer Service Recognition Card, available in all CVSD buildings and online.





Conestoga Valley SCHOOL DISTRICT

2110 Horseshoe Road • Lancaster, PA 17601

CONESTOGA VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

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Michael G. Talley

Dr. Gerald G. Huesken, *Superintendent*

The board generally meets the second and third Monday of every month in the Lloyd S. Greiner Board Room at the Wirth Administration Center.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Kendal Gapinski, Editor

717-397-2421 ext. 0007

Kendal_Gapinski@ConestogaValley.org

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www.CVBuckskins.org (CV Athletics)

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