

Abington Ghost Stories

Abington High School Alumni Association • (215) 572-8899 • abingtonalumni.com • Alumni@abington.k12.pa.us



REBUILDING ABINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Rebuilding Abington Middle School: A new era for education. Abington Middle School is embarking on an exciting journey of transformation. A \$28.5 million renovation and rebuilding project is set to enhance the educational experience for its students and faculty. The Abington School District board has approved the extensive investment plan, which aims to bring the building up to modern standards, making it safer and more conducive to learn.

The decision to move forward with the project comes after extensive evaluations and discussions among school officials, administrators, and the community. A key factor in the approval was the recognition that the school's current infrastructure no longer meets the growing demands of modern education. Issues such as aging facilities, outdated classrooms and limited space for specialized programs have prompted the need for significant updates.

The renovation plan involves a complete overhaul of Abington Middle School's existing facilities to improve its structural integrity, technology access, and learning spaces. This transformation includes the modernization of classrooms, upgrades to the heating and ventilation system, and the addition of new science labs and media centers, which will better serve the needs of students and teachers alike. Additionally, the project will focus on creating more collaborative and flexible learning environments, aligning with current educational trends that emphasize hands-on learning and technology integration.

A crucial element of the project's success is the communities involvement period to move forward, the plan will be put to a public referendum on May 20th. The vote will allow residents to weigh in on the proposed changes and ensure their voices are heard in the decision-making process. By engaging with the com-

munity, school officials hope to foster transparency and ensure the project meets the needs of all stakeholders.

Moreover, the rebuild aims to address concerns related to safety and accessibility. New infrastructure will be implemented to ensure that the building meets current safety standards, offering students and faculty a secure environment. This includes improvements in fire safety, accessibility for those with disabilities, and updates to the buildings structural elements.

The project is expected to bring lasting benefits to both the students and the surrounding community. Not only will it enhance educational outcomes but will also provide a more modern inviting space for extracurricular activities and foster a sense of pride among residents the rebuilding of Abington Middle School represents a significant investment in the future of education in the community with the support of the referendum this initiative will provide the necessary upgrades to create a safe, modern, and engaging learning environment for generations of students to come.

ABINGTON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL HAS EARNED A PLACE ON THE COLLEGE BOARD'S AP SCHOOL HONOR ROLL FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR.

At the Abington School Board on October 8, Schools Superintendent Jeffrey Fecher said the AP School Honor Roll recognizes schools that have done outstanding work to welcome more students into AP courses and support them on the path to college success.

In addition, the Senior High was recognized with the AP Access Award, which honors schools that encourage more low-income and underrepresented minority students to take AP courses, demonstrating a clear and effective commitment to equitable access to advanced coursework, the superintendent said.

Where are they now?

<u>Charles Cason '50 and Bruce Miller</u> are friends and members of a group of Jazz Aficionados. They both live in Alexandria Virginia.

Rick Arnold '57 retired 20 years ago after successful careers in banking, college professor, and professional accountant. In 1990 he founded a company to build alternative fuel vehicles selling it six years later. Ellen, his wife are both semi-retired in 2007 but continued to be active in consulting, Kwanis International and their church. They lived two years in the Philippines while serving in the Navy during the Viet Nam War and currently live in Central Pennsylvania.

Patty Forgeng Stein '69 is a sales manager in Plymouth Meeting. She is married to Ken Stein, a retired Abington Township detective. They have three children: Hans '99, Caroline '02, and Gretchen '97, a special education teacher in the school district. Patty and Ken still live in Abington and will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this year.

Bruce Carter '72 is a retired Pastor living in Collegeville, PA. On March 8, 2025 Bruce, along with 250 other Master swimmers, entered the Regional Masters Swimming Meet at Upper Dublin High School. Bruce competed in six events in one day of competition and placed first in all events in the 70-74 years age group. Bruce intends to enter the National Championship Meet in San Antonia, Texas, at the end of April. Some of you may remember Bruce by his nickname "Brute".

Rev. Jonathan Mason, '90 In July of 2024, Philadelphia Mayor Parker appointed Rev. Jonathan Mason, '90 to the Board of Trustees of the Philadelphia Community College.

<u>Dave Rondinelli '90</u> is currently a service writer for 3 years at Bryner Chevrolet and still lives in Abington





Every year members of the Alumni Association gather on graduation day at 4:15 PM in the cafeteria to have a light dinner and prepare to assist the high school administration to perform graduation ceremonies. Each class is represented by a maroon flag with the year of graduation. After the seniors are seated in the center of the field the pole bearers place the flags in the holders to the left or right of the stage. You are welcome to stay and can be seated off to the right of the stage and watch the ceremonies or leave. You can be on your way by 7:15 p.m. Contact Vicki Turner. Her email address is vickiturner@abington.k12.pa.us She will send you a letter of confirmation.

New Board Members



Mike Sayer I was born and raised in the Abington Woods section of Roslyn, the fourth of five children. I graduated from Abington High School and am a proud member of the Class of 1974. My career as a business manager spans over 48 years, and I continue to work full-time at a large

church in Greenville, Delaware. My two children, also graduates of Abington High School, live in Horsham and Willow Grove and have blessed me with three granddaughters. I enjoy gardening, motorcycle riding, and watching Eagles and Phillies games.



Hello, fellow Ghosts! My name is **Andrea Weinberg Jackson**, a proud Class of 1989 graduate and lifelong Abington resident. My husband, Dave ('89), and I have built our lives, raising our daughters, Paige ('19) and Amanda ('21) here in Abington. When my friend

and Alumni Association President, Patti, invited me to join the board, I was truly honored. Abington has always been a special part of my life, and I'm excited to give back and support our amazing alumni community however I can!

"In memory of passed board member"



Hank Brusca was born in Fox Chase and finally settled in Jenkintown. He was a graduate from the class of '60. He spent his working career in sales while also being a loyal husband and father. Nicknamed the "Galloping Ghost" by his children, he always main-

tained his ties to the alumni. He was a member of the Finance Committee for many years.

He spent his last full week with his entire family down at the shore on the beach block watching Walker Texas Ranger, capped off with a Penn State Football victory. His passing was September 4, 2024.

Cell Phones

Superintendent Jeffrey Fecher has sent notice to the school community that cell phone usage will be prohibited in classrooms during the 2024-2025 school year.

High School, cell phone holders will be purchased for use in instructional spaces. This means that each time a student walks into a classroom, they will place their phone into a pocket on the holder, which they will be able to retrieve before leaving class. Exceptions that will be made for students who need their phones for health or accessibility reasons.

ASD believes these changes will benefit our students socially and emotionally, in addition to eliminating distractions in class, as there has been a growing body of evidence about how student mental health has been negatively impacted by cellphones over time.

The superintendent said. "We appreciate the support and understanding of our parents and guardians as we implement these new procedures to benefit our entire school community, the most important of them being our students, teachers, and staff,"

Sports

Congratulations to Mr. Bill Neely, Abington Senior High School paraprofessional, athletics coach, and Class of 1970 alumnus, on his induction into the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame – Montco Chapter! A lifelong Abington resident, Mr. Neely has made a lasting impact as both an athlete and coach, excelling in basketball, football, and track & field. At Norfolk State, he was a CIAA and NCAA Small College Team Champion, and since 1991, he has coached Abington's track teams, producing multiple state champions and Olympians. Named PTFCA Indoor Coach of the Year (2002). Since 2021 Neely has served as special education paraprofessional. His dedication to athletics and student success continues to shape the Abington community—congratulations on this well-deserved honor!

This January, Abington proudly celebrated the <u>50th anniversary</u> of the ASHS Girls' Basketball 1975 team winning the first-ever PIAA post-season tournament for girls. Many original team members reunited to commemorate this historic milestone, while the late, great <u>Coach Carlotta "Bunny" Schaffer</u>, former ASHS Athletic Director, was honored for her leadership and lasting contributions to the program.

Adding to the school's proud legacy, Maya Johnson, a founding member of the Ghosts' girls flag football team, has been nominated by the Philadelphia Eagles for the Maxwell Football Club National Girls Flag Player of the Year award. Maya played a key role in leading her team to an undefeated spring 2023 season, securing a state championship and earning recognition from the Eagles. This year marks the first time this award will be presented at the Maxwell Awards. Congratulations and best of luck to Maya!

Congratulations to our student-athletes on their All-League Honors! Abington teams excelled across multiple sports, with Cheerleading qualifying for the PIAA Competitive Spirit Championship and numerous athletes earning First and Second Team selections in soccer, cross country, field hockey, football, golf, tennis, swimming, basketball, wrestling, indoor track, bowling, volleyball, lacrosse, baseball, and softball. Highlights include PIAA and District One qualifiers in swimming, wrestling, indoor track, and cross country, as well as state-bound athletes in multiple events.

Congratulations to all our outstanding student athletes and coaches for their hard work and dedication! Your achievements continue to make Abington proud. Go Ghosts!

Alumni Members,

We invite you to become a Life Member of the Abington HS Alumni! For a one-time membership fee of only \$25, you can enjoy a lifelong connection with your alma mater and fellow alumni.

This small contribution is a modest membership request, but it goes a long way in supporting the Scholarship Fund, Ghost Stories printing cost and the operation of the office. By becoming a life member, you'll be part of a network that fosters lasting relationships and strengthens our community.

We would love to have you with us as a valued member! To join, simply visit our website, and click on the MEMBERSHIPS. If you're not sure of life status, drop us an email and we can look it up and let you know

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we can make a difference!

Warm regards, AHSAA membership team. Go Ghosts!

Class Reunions

The class of 1975 will reunite on October 3, 4, and 5. Visit the website www.75ahsgrads.com to see what we are planning. Tickets for our event on Saturday evening, October 4, are currently on sale there. Our class has even raised some funds to help our classmates who might need financial help attending the reunion. We just want you there!

The Class of 1976 will hold their 50th Reunion on Saturday November 7, 2026 at Manufacturer's Country Club-more info to follow. Please send your UPDATED (email or snail mail address, etc.) to Abington76Reunion@yahoo.com. Join our FB site Abington Senior High School Class of 76 Abington PA. Please help us find missing classmates from Abington & Alternative School. Committee members: Bob Katz, Lynne Ryan & Marci Zeitz Valen, Kate Schneider Duffy, Maureen Markham Barnes & Nancy Prisuta Murphy.

The Class of 1985 will hold there 40th reunion on November, 28 2025 at Sandy Run County Club. Details can be found on FB group page. Abington High School Class of 1985

The Class of 1995 will hold their 30th reunion on November 29th at Village of Cottage Green, Philadelphia, PA. contact: Christina Green dr.christina.u.green@gmail.com or Jodi Heyman Marx jheyman3@yahoo.com

Courtyard Planned to Honor Extraordinary Alum Ash Carter '72

Ashton B. "Ash" Carter, Class of '72, who served our nation as Secretary of Defense from 2015 to 2017. Ash's service as Defense Secretary was the pinnacle of a stunning career as a nuclear scientist, public servant, leader, and educator. Sadly, we lost Ash prematurely in 2022 at the age of 68.

Ash loved Abington and epitomized its values. He was inducted into the Abington High School Hall of Fame in 1989. Seeking to memorialize Ash's achievements and motivate other Abington students to follow his examples of leadership and patriotism, a group of Ash's classmates and friends have launched an effort to build a courtyard in his name. Located at the school's entrance, this beautiful space will be a place where students, teachers, staffers, and visitors can reflect, relax, and connect while on campus.

The Abington School District has approved the creation of the courtyard, which is also supported by the Abington Educational Foundational. Learn more about Ash and the courtyard design by visiting the AEF website at https://www.aef-pa.org/. You can help make this courtyard a reality by going directly to this page on the website: https://www.aef-pa.org/donate-now.

Membership

\$500 CLUB

1972 William D. Graeff

CENTURY CLUB \$100

1974 Richard Shema

1965 Elizabeth D. Diamond

1993 Ambrose Crenshaw

1959 Richard D. Steel

1955 Margaret Risko Mathers

1964 Susan Kakas Richardson

1953 Jane Unger Burman

DONATION

1964 Class of 1964

1965 Raymond F Arment

1965 Raymond F Arment

1965 Raymond F Arment

1965 Raymond F Arment

LIFE

2023 Patrick J. Garry

2024 Jane E. Rickards

2024 Kenneth T. McKenzie

2024 Lily L. Devlin

1974 Richard Shema

2022 Alexis M. Ditri

1973 Frederick A. Fellmeth

1979 Mary Dowd Limburg

1975 Marie Lepore Williams

1977 Richard H. Katz

2001 Robert Kirkpatrick

1972 Alan R. Berkowitz

1959 Patricia Mc Crane

1969 Carl R. Saurman

1981 Daniel F. Bubnis

1967 Janet S. Schmolze Schaefer

1956 Frederick Espenshade

2019 Ananda J. Allen

2024 Dwain Alexander

2004 Eilish Quigg

2014 Milas J. Rossell

1973 Erica J. Moyer Mc Bride

1965 Pamela Thirsk Teichgraber

2018 Elizabeth L. Belka

2018 Victoria L. Belka

1949 Bertha Maugans

1953 Jane Unger Burman

1963 Saundra Smith Schaffer

1970 Linda Mrvica Lee

2003 Casey Shapiro Chakler

1966 Janet Strickler Evans

1966 Robert Custer

1966 Barbara A. Moll

1975 Matthew Logan

1974 Leslie Blumenthal Kirzner

2006 Heidi E. Potter

1965 Ginny Spence Jones

1963 Judith Hollis Raub

1989 Andrea R Weinberg Jackson

MAROON AND WHITE

1964 Susan Kakas Richardson

1967 Edie Sautter Miller

1949 Bertha Maugans

1970 Linda Mrvica Lee

2006 Heidi E. Potter

1963 Judith Hollis Raub

Date

Membership and Donation Form

Mem	bership
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Life, \$25 (one-time donation)

Maroon & White, \$50Century Club, \$100

☐ 500 Club, \$500 ☐ K Club, \$1,000

☐ Bronze, \$5,000

Donations (any amount)

Booster donation

Memorial donations other than life membership memorials

☐ I am willing to give a little time to work for the Alumni Association.

Class year Present membership

First name Maiden if applicable Surname

Address—please check here if this is a new address \Box

City State ZIP Code

Spouse's full name

Please add memorial donation information here. Attach second sheet if needed.

Total enclosed (make checks payable to Abington High School Alumni Association) ______Please detach form and mail to AHSAA at P.O. Box 55, Abington, Pa. 19001.

Memberships also can be purchased online at www.abingtonalumni.com using credit card or Paypal.

Phone number

Email address

Memorials

For	Ву	Amount
Margret Pinder Bing '56	Ronal Prosser '56	\$25
Smythe Caroline Rocco '57	Patricia Wright Ingraham '57	\$25
Jodie Hamill Hutcheson '57	Patricia Wright Ingraham '57	\$25
Mary Ann Schrope Franklin '52	Charles & Shirley Roth Bradley '52	\$30
William B. Yoder '35	Alexandria Yoder Miller '63 (daughter in-law)	\$35
Peggy Sargent Shaffert '59	Judith Northam Oppasser '59	\$50
Paul Erk '54	Lesley O'Flynn (daughter)	\$50
James R. Oram '68	Kerry Dixon '74, Tawny Oram '73 and Jana Lagan '73 (sisters)	\$100
Estelle Callahan Syren '47	Myrtle Hufton Ryan '47	\$100
Elmyra Wright Keller '49	Dorothy Garrison Synnestvedt '49	\$100
Louise Wilhjem Baker '49	Dorothy Garrison Synnestvedt '49	\$100
Jean Otis Freeman '65	Jeanne Robson '65	\$100
Janet Eakle Stockburger '65	Jeanne Robson '65	\$100
Janice Faye Diamond '68	Beth Diamond '65 (sister)	\$100
William Anderson '64	Susan Kakas Richardson '64	\$100
Margret Pinder Bing '56	Lew and Trudy Keen	\$500
Laura Smith Baum '82	Karen & Rink Smith	\$500
Jim Grimes '79	Karen & Rink Smith	\$500

Class of '74 ReunionClass of '74, as part of their 50th reunion, returned to tour the school on 9/21/24



Class of 2024 Scholarship Winners



Josh Bastone PA College of Technology \$5,875



St Joe's \$11,750



Skye Harrison George Mason University \$5875

ABINGTON HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL 50+ CLUB LUNCHEON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2025

SANDY RUN COUNTRY CLUB

200 E. Valley Green Road Oreland, PA 19075 Social Hour and Cash Bar – 11:30 a.m. • Luncheon – 12:30 p.m.

YOUR HOST THIS YEAR – CLASS OF 1970

For general information please contact:
Patti Hartman ('87) 302-632-7978 pattihartman@comcast.net or
Joan Z. Mosler ('54) 267-575-0647 jzimmie@aol.com.

Cost: \$45.00 per person

Please make checks payable to the 50+ Club
Please send payment and bottom portion of the order form to:

Patti Hartman
301 Church Rd
Jenkintown, PA 19046

Reservation and payment must be received by September 30, 2025 Check one per person attending **\$45.00** per person CHICKEN FRANCAISE GRILLED TWIN TORNADOES OF BEEF BAKED ATLANTIC SALMON VEGETARIAN All entrees include salad, rolls, coffee/tea and dessert. Class Year First Name Maiden Surname City Zip Code Telephone Number: Email Address: Guest/Spouse: Name Class Year (if Abington Alumni) Total Check Enclosed: \$ Table Preference: Seating with Class of 19 I cannot attend but want to contribute to the scholarship fund and alumni association. Amount enclosed: \$_____

ALUMNI WHO HAVE PASSED 2024 and 2025

1941 Postle Marjorie Miller - 1/17/2024

1943 Saunders Winnifred Sudler - 2/18/2024

1946 Cole Joan - 5/11/2024

1947 Callahan Estelle Syren - 2024

1947 Ortolani Valentine - 7/13/2024

1948 Bates Charles A. - 6/9/2024

1948 Millership Miriam F. Jarden, Jr. - 11/1/2024

1949 Kidd Reginald - 02/16/2024

1950 Roatch Richard - 3/2/2024

1950 Worthington June Redstreake - 12/26/2024

1952 Workinger Donna L. Weigand - 05/06/2024

1953 Ashwell Pattie Mc Leod - 12/5/2024

1953 Hamilton III John R - 6/5/2024

1954 Montgomery Dorothy Cross D - 2/24/2024

1954 Tucker Ellen Jane Holdere - 10/26/2024

1955 Cramer Marilyn Nagg - 4/30/2024

1956 Arnold Edward L. - 2024

1956 Schmidt Charles R. - 1/13/2024

1957 Enly Constance Schall - 4/1/2024

1957 Hamill Jodie Hutcheson - 1/10/2024

1957 Kenyon Kirk - 2/27/2024

1958 Gay Donald - 12/6/2024

1958 Hughes William L. - 1/11/2024

1958 Mc Clay John F. - 7/17/2024

1958 Sutherland Beth A. Terry - 10/26/2024

1960 Brusca Henry - 9/04/2024

1960 Tossona John Paul - 6/30/2024

1961 Bell Richard C. - 7/18/2024

1961 Hostelley Richard - 12/1/2024

1962 Keim Ronnie - 5/22/2024

1962 Miller Judith Owen - 5/2/2024

1964 Coates David A. - 10/23/2024

1964 Grebe Kathe L - 12/20/2024

1964 Jenkins Thomas C - 12/7/2024

1964 Schaffer Carlotta Bunny - 11/28/2024

1964 Stout James - 11/2/2024

1964 Zweighaft Marsha Pinto - 11/6/2024

1965 Eakle Janet E. Stockburger - 1/5/2024

1965 Felton Pete - 9/19/2024

1965 Otis Dr. Jean Freeman - 4/14/2024

1965 Young Marilyn Koprowski - 2/15/2024

1966 Pepper Pamela A. - 3/15/24

1966 Zeccardi Joe - 12/11/2024

1967 Goldman Laurie - 10/14/2024

1967 Hemenway Sue Hertz - 2/9/2024

1967 Pfeffer Bruce - 2/11/2024

1971 Flynn Patricia Garofano - 10/03/2024

1971 Garofano Thomas - 12/08/2024

1971 Heckman Martin V. - 3/1/2024

1972 Clark William - 5/17/2024

1972 Feldman Robert - 5/19/2024

1973 De Paul Linda Rupp - 8/20/2024

1973 Price Joseph H. - 2/12/2024

1974 Brady Linda Anne Mulhearn - 10/17/2024

1974 Ketterlinus David - 10/24/2024

1974 Mc Geady Michael - 5/18/2024

1974 Thompson, III John S. - 4/3/2024

1974 Yacko Dave - 9/9/2024

1975 Hartey Joseph - 8/12/2024

1975 Krais Beth Yanni - 7/24/2024

1975 Lombardo Michael - 10/24/2024

1975 Rowe Gregory - 8/4/2024

1975 Slotsky Carole L - 1/25/2024

1976 Burket Stephanie Flanagan - 10/18/2024

1976 Cleighton Thomas F. - 11/24/2024

1976 Tolton William F. - 5/13/2024

1976 Toner Teresa A. - 4/7/2024

1977 Hutt Jerrianne Kuntz - 12/19/2024

1978 Long John H. - 1/24/2024

1978 Meara Linda J. Ahrens - 10/22/2024

1978 Smits Lolita N. - 11/30/2024

1979 Grimes James - 2/05/2024

1979 Mancini Eugene L - 1/12/2024

1979 Smits Lolita - 11/30/2024

1980 Abrams David J. - 2/06/2024

1981 Ken Montgomery 12/25/2024

1982 Kees Tom M - 08/26/24

1982 Tiziano Joseph M. - 4/5/2024

1985 Bednarsky Alexander - 7/4/2024

2009 Zipkin Jessica M. - 11/1/2024

1951 Nelson Barbara Fisher - 1/15/2025

1954 Braunworth Alan - 2/23/2025

1955 Turcotte Jane James - 3/16/2025

1959 Garbutt James L. - 1/9/2025

1962 Keppler Walter - 3/18/2025

1963 Rainey Janice - 2/6/2025

10/4/C:II + D D I 1/22/20

1964 Gilbert Peggy Beck - 1/22/2025

1964 Mongone Marianne G Ziegler - 3/3/2025

1967 Mc Clain Dave - 2/22/2025

1967 Fuchs John - 3/22/2025

1969 Blumenthal Michael - 2/24/2025

1973 Beidler Keith S. - 1/6/2025

1974 Anderson Francis J. - 1/30/2025

1978 Wright Nancy - 3/3/2025

1979 Merwin Allen S. - 2/1/2025

1984 Wagner Ken - 11/25/25

1991 Wengel Adam Caine - 1/29/2025



Abington High School Alumni Association P.O. Box 55, Abington, PA 19001

Return Service Requested



Important

Don't miss an issue!

need your email address!
Please provide name, class and
email address

Email your address to: alumni@abington.kl2.pa.us

- Attend the annual Association business meeting at 7:00 pm, Thursday, September 25, in the Alumni Office in the Administration Building on Highland Avenue in Abington.
- Contact your class coordinator now to plan your next reunion.
- Visit the Association's web page for reunions: http://www.abingtonalumni.com phone (215) 572-8899
- Please consider the Alumni Association in your estate planning.

ABINGTON HIGH SCHOOL Alumni Association 2025 Officers

Patti Hartman '87 Tim Simmons '65

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John Worthington '60
Rick Jannotti '67

William Hower '57
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