



Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

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Comfort is not out of Reach

Many homes built in our area were built without central air conditioning and they were heated by electric baseboard heaters. The only possible reason for that is cost. An electric baseboard heating system probably costs about \$1200 to install from start to finish. That's probably about 15% of what a central system would have been even if it was a heat pump backed up by electric. Electric rates have never gone down and they never will. It blows my mind that it is not unreasonable for a home with electric heat to see bills of \$700-1000+ in the winter. There are much better uses for electricity. Spinning a motor can't be done with gas or oil and that is the best use of electricity. Lighting and appliances will never be able to be powered with them either. But to take electricity and turn it back into heat is like stuffing your pillow with 100 dollar bills. It does achieve a goal but at an unreasonable cost. For people who buy a home with electric heat and want to find a better way, there are several today. And once you make the investment there are lots of options available to allow you to customize a system to your needs. A few types of systems that came on the market in the last 5 years really are perfect for retrofitting into older homes. Most new systems need large ducts and are not practical for 2 story homes. That means you would need one system in the attic for the second floor and one in the basement for the first floor. Many basements are already finished so that space is not available. A high velocity system is perfect for almost any home and does not compromise comfort in heating mode. It is imperative in winter for a system to prevent cold air from stratifying and lying at floor level. That is the number one complaint from homeowners with improperly designed systems. Once the air circulation system is designed, a heat source needs to be chosen. Most heat pumps will get you through the fall and spring but the typical backup heater for a heat pump is electric. That's another bad idea but done because of cost. Bosch makes a heat pump that does not start to lose its capacity until around 5° as opposed to every other brand that starts losing capacity at 45° outdoor temperature so winter is affordable too. There are some great solutions today that don't break the bank but cut utility cost drastically.

Ken Field is the owner of Slate Belt Energy and Field's Service, Inc. As a certified energy rater and contractor, he is qualified to assess every aspect of energy usage and prescribe solutions to save energy. He can be reached at 610-759-6306 or email Ken@FieldsService.com

The principles include how well a school defines and implements its core values, how well it defines and proactively develops character, creates a caring community and opportunities for moral action, and how meaningful and challenging its curriculum is.

Pen Argyl High School's teachers and administrators intend to incorporate a global service-learning curriculum as well as other projects that support the community as they work toward national recognition.

Ms. Fors said Grand Central has a long-standing relationship with Pen Argyl High School that precedes the character education program. Each year, Grand Central team members have supported the school's annual "Stuff the Bus" Thanksgiving food drive through donations and hosting various events to support Families First of Pen Argyl.

Character.org's Schools of Character Program has positively impacted nearly three million students, staff, parents, and other community members, including in the Pennsbury School District in Bucks County where WM's Fairless Landfill team has had a successful relationship for 28 years.

"We're starting to see a pattern," Ms. Fors said. "The Pennsbury School District was named a National School of Character in 2021."

For more information about Character.org, visit Character.org.

ABOUT WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste Management, based in Houston, is the leading provider of comprehensive waste management services in North America. Through its subsidiaries, the company provides collection, transfer, recycling and resource recovery, and disposal services. It is also a leading developer, operator and owner of landfill gas-to-energy facilities in the United States. The company's customers include residential, commercial, industrial, and municipal customers in the U.S. and Canada. To learn more information about Waste Management, visit www.wm.com.



Pen Argyl High School Score Card

By Krista Campbell Pen Argyl High School English Department Coordinator & Senior Class Advisor, Character Education Leader

Pen Argyl High School was named a 2022 State School of Character! This recognition is NOT easy to obtain and is the culmination of five years of teamwork on the part of the high school administration, faculty, and students. Character.org (an international organization

that promotes good character in schools, the workplace and the world at large) received 188 applications and only designated 67 schools as SSOC, and we were the only one in Pennsylvania! A School of Character has to prove they have "put into

place a comprehensive approach that inspires their students to understand, care about and consistently practice a set of core values that will enable them to flourish in school, in relationships, in the workplace, and as citizens." We earned an impressive 3.8 out of 4 on our score sheet, receiving the highest rating of 4 in 30 out of 35 categories! I have attached our scorecard for your review, which also highlights what the committee deemed as our strengths.

I am so proud of our high school students and staff for Accepting this Challenge and exceeding my expectations, and am grateful for the support of administration. I look forward to our next challenge ... National School of Character!!



2022 State Schools of Character Score Sheet

Full School Name: Pen Argyl High School

Reviewer Name: Pennsylvania State Evaluation Team Date: 12/1/2021

Scale: 4=Exemplary, 3=Good, 2=Developing, 1=Lacking Evidence

When determining the rating of each Principle, the evaluator will consider the following four questions:

1. How many 11 Principles Key Indicators are identified in the item?
2. Are practices guided by data, 11 Principles Key Indicators, or other relevant, research-based literature?
3. Is there evidence (qualitative or quantitative) of positive outcomes resulting from implementation of the Principle?
4. What percent of the school population is affected or engaged with the activities of this Principle?

	Item 1	Item 2	Item 3	Item 4	Average
Principle #1	4	4	4		4.00
Principle #2	4	4	4		4.00
Principle #3	4	4	4		4.00
Principle #4	4	4	4	4	4.00
Principle #5	3	2	2		2.33
Principle #6	4	4	4		4.00
Principle #7	4	4	4		4.00
Principle #8	4	4	4		4.00
Principle #9	3	4	4		3.67
Principle #10	4	4	4		4.00
Principle #11	4	4	4	3	3.75
Total (average of each line divided by 11)					3.8