

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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**CONTACT:** Amie M. Downs  
Allegheny County  
412-350-3711 office  
412-327-3700 cell

Sarah McCluan  
Allegheny  
Intermediate Unit  
412-394-3472 office  
412-841-8221 cell

### **Duquesne City School District Designated as First *Live Well Allegheny* School**

**PITTSBURGH** – Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, Council Member Bob Macey, and Dr. Karen Hacker, Director of the Allegheny County Health Department, joined students, staff, faculty, administrators and local officials today as the Duquesne City School District was formally designated as the first *Live Well Allegheny* school.

“We are extremely excited to have the Duquesne City School District engage in the *Live Well Allegheny* campaign in such a big way, and we were thrilled to participate in today’s Move-a-Thon as part of that launch,” said County Executive Fitzgerald. “The ‘Live Well Duquesne Schools’ effort really addresses our goals of reducing childhood obesity, and is doing so in cooperation with our Health Department and many other innovative partnerships that can make a huge difference in the lives of its students.”

*Live Well Allegheny* was launched in January as a comprehensive, innovative strategy on wellness that embraces a broad concept of living well to include physical health, mental wellness, personal and community safety, prevention and preparedness, and much more. The effort is being led by the Board of Health and Health Department Director Dr. Karen Hacker.

“I’m thrilled that the Duquesne City School District is the first *Live Well Allegheny* school. This partnership between the district and the County will allow for collaboration that will benefit our students and their families,” said Council Member Macey. “Launching this effort with today’s Move-a-Thon has also shown students that being healthy and active can also be fun. The lessons taught today will be practices that they can carry into adulthood, and welcomes a style of healthy living to the Mon Valley that can benefit its residents for years to come.”

The *Live Well Duquesne Schools* launch happened today at the Duquesne Education Center in Duquesne City. The school hosted a Move-a-Thon which featured several stations of physical activities where children and adults could engage in vigorous exercises and activities designed to promote physical fitness and self-esteem. In addition to members of the school community, elected officials from and representing the City of Duquesne, were also in attendance.

“I’m impressed by the initiative and commitment that Duquesne Schools have shown in becoming a part of the *Live Well Allegheny* campaign. In addition to the Move-a-Thon held today, the district has begun planning activities that will be held throughout the school year, as well as developing ideas that provide for a robust campaign that elevates wellness and health for its students and students’ families,” said Dr.

Hacker. “The district will also be sharing information on wellness campaign events, offer fresh fruit and vegetables at all meals, provide 2% milk and chocolate milk instead of whole milk, enhance its health education to include nutrition and physical activity information – and that’s just the start of their plans. The district has also agreed to conduct a youth survey to gather information on physical activity and nutrition, and will share that data with us to better inform our actions on wellness.”

A number of community partners and wellness organizations were on hand to lend their support to the effort, including Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh, Boys & Girls Clubs of Western PA, California University of Pennsylvania, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, Giant Eagle, Kennywood Park, Mascaro Corporation, PA Army National Guard, Taylor Rental, United States Air Force, and the United States Marines.

“The administration is honored that the Duquesne Education Center was the first in the county to be named a *Live Well Allegheny* school,” said Mrs. Barbara McDonnell, Acting Superintendent of the Duquesne City School District. “The health and safety of our students is always an important focus for us. Healthy students come to school ready to learn and succeed. We thank our county officials for their belief in our students, our school and our community.”

Located approximately 12 miles south of Pittsburgh, the Duquesne City School District serves the families of the Duquesne City community. The district educates approximately 390 students in grades K-6 and employs about 80 professionals. Students in grades 7-12 attend either the East Allegheny or West Mifflin Area School Districts.

For more information on the *Live Well Allegheny* campaign, including how to become a *Live Well Allegheny* school, visit [www.LiveWellAllegheny.com](http://www.LiveWellAllegheny.com).

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**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

101 COURTHOUSE • 436 GRANT STREET • PITTSBURGH, PA 15219  
PHONE (412) 350-6500 • FAX (412) 350-6512

