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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Need for Educational Programming at Colebrookdale Railroad Surges**  
Given \$2,500 Boost from Ambler Savings Bank Donation

BOYERTOWN, PA – This month, 500 students at underprivileged schools, are being given an unmatched learning opportunity aboard the Colebrookdale Railroad. According to extensive research studies, ‘... children who take school trips have better grades (59%), higher graduation rates from high school (95%) and college (63%), and greater income (12% higher annually)’. This year, the need has exploded for local experiential learning opportunities and over 1,000 students are on the field trip waiting list until funding is garnered for transportation.

“Three key districts in our service area are walking only districts and we are seeking new contributors to help us fund transportation to allow the poorest districts to benefit from our programming,” commented Michele Barrett, M. Ed., Director of Educational Programs of Colebrookdale Railroad Preservation Trust.

Ms. Barrett, once a classroom teacher, has developed elementary and middle school class curriculum, stretching field trips to the next level at Colebrookdale. Students get more than a day out of the classroom, they experience an immersive living lesson of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and how railroads stimulated the economic development that enabled the United States to become one of the world’s richest nation.

Donations like the one from Ambler Savings Bank, through the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program, allow school students to participate in their unique educational excursion program at no cost to the students or school districts.

These sponsored field trips to outdoor classrooms may be even more critical as reports continue to reveal that disadvantaged and underserved students are falling behind during the pandemic-related school closures.



*4<sup>th</sup> Grade Students from Pottstown School District, and employees from Ambler Savings Bank pose for a photo honoring the recent donation.*



“Donations like the one from Ambler Savings Bank make it possible to continue providing STEM learning experiences and history lessons that many children may not get otherwise,” said Nathaniel Guest, Executive Director of Colebrookdale Railroad Preservation Trust.

“We are proud to support the Colebrookdale Railroad year after year because of the unique educational programming they provide to underprivileged schools in the area,” said Erin Cohen, Chief Relationship Officer, Ambler Savings Bank.

To learn more about the Colebrookdale Railroad, visit <https://www.colebrookdalerailroad.com/get-involved/colebrookdale-grove/>

*Ambler Savings Bank is a mutually organized community bank headquartered in Ambler, Pennsylvania with locations in Fairview Village, Limerick, and Bally, as well as several continuing care retirement facilities. Learn more online at [www.AmblerSavingsBank.com](http://www.AmblerSavingsBank.com).*



*Students aboard the train listen to a lesson from the engineer.*